Hafa Adai!

Volunteers spruce up curbs, parking lot, and sidewalks on Tinian. PAGE 2
Associate Justice Manglona to seek his third retention. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY JULY 26, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CHCC reports 2 COVID-related deaths

The CNMI reported yesterday that it recorded two more COVID-19-related deaths, raising the CNMI's grim toll to 37 since the pandemic began.

Yesterday's news release from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. stated that the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC have confirmed the CNMI's 36th and 37th COVID-19-related deaths.

The news release did not release further details of these latest fatalities, as per standard CHCC procedure.

Also, as of yesterday, July 25, 2022, CHCC said there are three individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

From this report's period of July 17 – 23, 2022, there were five new hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

As for new infections,

See CHCC on Page 4

Mafnas files TRO to stay reassignment

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Former Division of Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas is not letting his abrupt reassignment slide and has taken his battle to the Superior Court, with the filing of a motion for a temporary restraining order against the Department of Finance and Finance Secretary David Atalig to stay his reassignment.

Mafnas

Just a few days following the announcement of his reassignment, Mafnas, through attorney Charity Hodson, filed a motion for a TRO and preliminary injunction against his "demotion."

A preliminary injunction is a court order refraining a party, in this case the defense, from carrying out an action or decision, in

See MAFNAS on Page 4

Customs Division welcomes 29 new officers

Customs and Biosecurity graduate Kane P. Ybanez plants a kiss on his son's head after receiving his badge during the Division of Customs and Biosecurity 9th Cycle Academy graduation yesterday, July 25, 2022, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. The academy was coordinated in partnership with Northern Marianas College. Ybanez, who received a leadership recognition award during the ceremony, joins 28 other Customs and Biosecurity graduates.

NMC

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Former CNMI national team basketball player Uchelbil Emylene Oiterong emerged as the valedictorian of the 9th Cycle Academy during the Division of Customs and Biosecurity 9th Cycle Academy graduation yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Oiterong, who is also a former member of the U.S Marines for four years, led the 29 cadets who became the newest

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S LACK OF PROPOSAL TO PAY 25% PENSION FOR RETIREES

'I've been reminding Legislature; they had a year to act'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig pointed out yesterday that he reminded the Legislature in October 2021 that they have a full year to come up with a revenue-generating legislation to pay for the 25% pension of government retirees in fiscal year 2023.

See LEGISLATURE on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
A wildfire near Yosemite Park has grown into one of California's biggest blazes of the year.
PAGE 12

ASIA
A gunman opened fire on university campus in the Philippine, killing three individuals.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Italian environmental activists glue their hands to a painting in the Uffizi Galleries in Florence.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Volunteers spruce up curbs, parking lot, and sidewalks on Tinian

Several tourist sites on Tinian received much-needed rehabilitation that increased visibility and safety for Tinian's motorists, thanks to the Adopt-A-Median initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership program.

Spearheaded by the Tinian Delegation, the Tachogña Beach and Taga Beach pathways and parking lots were water blasted and painted, significantly improving the cleanliness of the beach parks.

The Tinian Delegation announced that the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater, followed by the Broadway Estates curbs and pathways, have been identified as the next beautification sites.

The Tinian Delegation, the Tinian Municipality, the Tinian Department of Public Works, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan's staff and personnel have all pitched in to ensure projects were done in a timely matter. This week, the group will welcome the support of U.S. military personnel who are making their way to Tinian to assist in painting the amphitheater's parking lot, railings, and speed bumps.

"On behalf of the people of Tinian and the Tinian leadership, I am pleased to be working with the GCEA and its team on several beautification projects for the island of Tinian. The PPP began on Tinian with the revitalization of our Housing Basketball Court and the outcome was amazing. Today, almost a year since this PPP, the youth of Tinian continue to utilize and care for the only public basketball court on the island that is in good working condition," said Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan.

Through the GCEA Marianas Village Pride Campaign, GCEA and the Tinian Mayor's Office joined efforts in the adoption of the San Jose curbsides. Aldan said his office continues to maintain and upkeep the curbs monthly.

Tinian senators and representatives from the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives echoed Aldan's sentiment.

"On behalf of the Tinian Delegation, the Tinian Municipality, and my office, we'd like to extend our appreciation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, GCEA co-chair Jerry Tan, and the GCEA Council members for supporting our beautification efforts on Tinian. We are very grateful for the supplies and materials that will help give our medians, curbs, and parking lots a nice facelift," said Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz. "*Si yu'us ma'åse yan ghilisow* to GCEA and the hard-working staff and volunteers for helping us beautify Tinian."

Rep. Patrick San Nicolas from Tinian recalls participating in beautification efforts when he was a young boy.

"My parents and our elders taught us that we all must do our part in respecting and preserving our island's treasures wherever they are present. The beautification projects couldn't have come at a better time with tourism opening up again and the military buildup that we're currently seeing on our island. I'd be remiss if I didn't highlight and thank the forefront leaders of these projects—Gov. Torres, Tinian Mayor Aldan, and the GCEA for their collaboration in making these transformations possible," said San Nicolas.

School projects continue

Since the launch of GCEA's MVP Campaign, Tinian Elementary School's Parent Teacher Student Association, in collaboration with the AmeriCorps Program students, signed up to rehabilitate and paint six pillars at the front office of the only elementary school. According to Aldan, once the project is done, the front pillars at the school will look like pencils. This is a collaborative effort with the GCEA, TES, and the Tinian High School AmeriCorps program, student volunteers, and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

"All in all, I am proud of the collaboration and relationship that the municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan has with the GCEA. Our strong partnership is a testament to how much could be accomplished and how anything is possible if the public and private organizations are unified in achieving a common mission or goal. I am grateful to the GCEA and our partnering organizations, the TES clubs, the AmeriCorps program, the Tinian Mayor's Office staff, and our community volunteers for continuing to make things possible for our island and our people," said Aldan.

GCEA thanks all of its partners for their outstanding beautification efforts on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Together, We Can!

For more information or to participate in the Adopt-A-Median program, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com or contact the council at gceacnmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CUC ADVISORIES

Power service interruptions on July 26 and 28

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on July 26 and 28, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

- Time: 8:30am to 11:30am
- Area(s) affected: Papago (portions of Papago Drive).
- Purpose: To perform systems maintenance by replacing a rotted primary power pole along Papago Drive.
- Circuit: Feeder 4
- Water we11(s) affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

- Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm
- Area(s) affected: Ahive Lane in Fina Sisu.
- Circuit: Kiya 2
- Water we11(s) affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on July 28 in Fina Sisu

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, July 28, 2022, from 8:30am to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Tun Joaquin Doi Road and Ahive Lane in Fina Sisu. Customers in the affected areas will experience low water pressure to no water during the outage period.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's contractor for the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project to perform the installation of a service saddle to the existing PVC pipe for the service lateral of the three water meters to be relocated to the right-of-way along Tun Joaquin Doi Road. Customers should expect normal water service soon after.

This project is part of the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to provide a more reliable water system. ***(PR)***

Associate Justice Manglona to seek his third retention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona is running for his third retention on the bench this Nov. 8 general election.

CNMI Supreme Court deputy clerk Nora V. Borja said yesterday that Manglona is going to submit his letter of intent to seek retention before the Commonwealth Election Commission this week.

Manglona

Borja said the associate justice will issue statements after submitting his letter of intent.

She said Manglona's eight-year term will expire in May 2024.

At the November 2007 election, voters overwhelmingly voted for Manglona's retention as associate justice. At the November 2014 election, voters again overwhelmingly retained him as associate justice.

Manglona ascended to the Superior Court as associate judge in 1998. In 2000, then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed him to become an associate justice for the Supreme Court.

Last July 15, Superior Court associate judges Joseph James Norita Camacho and Wesley M. Bogdan submitted their letters of intent to seek retention on the bench.

It's Camacho's second retention. His second six-year term as an associate judge expires in November 2023. He first ascended to the Superior Court in November 2011.

It is Bogdan's first retention election. He officially assumed the post as an associate judge in November 2017. His six-year term will expire in November 2023.

Under the constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Senate confirms Sablan, Yatar as election commissioners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed Friday the re-appointment of Jesus I. Sablan and Esther A. Yatar to serve as election commissioners representing the third and first senatorial districts, respectively.

Sablan

At a special session in the Senate chamber, all eight senators present voted "yes" for the confirmation of Sablan's re-appointment as commissioner representing the third senatorial district, or Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Sablan, 74, has served as chairman of the Commonwealth Election Commission board since 2018. His four-year term as commissioner expired Thursday. No commissioner is interested to replace him as chairman.

The same eight senators voted "yes" for the confirmation of Yatar's re-appointment representing first senatorial district, or Rota. Yatar's four-year term also expired Thursday.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) was absent. Acting Senate president Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) presided over the session.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, said the committee recommends the confirmation of both Sablan and Yatar to continue serving as CEC commissioners after review and consideration of the testimonies provided.

Yatar

Cruz said the committee has examined pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment and credentials of Sablan and Yatar. He said that, based on their assessment of Sablan's and Yatar's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for CEC and other relevant issues, the committee is convinced that the two have the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to continue serving as members of CEC.

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) brought to Sablan's attention the camera issue at the Department of Corrections, as disclosed by Corrections Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez during a budget hearing last June 23. DeLeon Guerrero said that what caught her attention during her review of the hearing's video recording is that some cameras at DOC may require repairs and maintenance. She said her understanding is the ballot boxes that will be used this November are being secured at a DOC facility. The senator asked Sablan to look into this issue to make sure that the ballots are protected and the integrity of the election process is not compromised.

Construction of a protective barrier at Garapan Fishing Base to start Thursday

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources announced yesterday construction of a protective barrier at the Garapan Fishing Base to reduce erosion and improve water quality in the Saipan Lagoon.

The project will take place from the south side of the boat launching ramp and will cover over 300 feet of the shoreline. The parking lot for boat trailers will be closed during construction, starting with a groundbreaking on Thursday, July 28, 2022 from 8am until 2pm.

This project is being done in collaboration with the CNMI Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Works. ***(PR)***

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The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

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Payment must be by cash or cashier's check
All bids must be received by 4:00p.m

Inspection and a vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK

Marianas Health Services, Inc.

Job Opening: Physical Therapist Aide

Job Summary: The Physical Therapist Aide assists the Physical Therapist in the implementation of patient rehabilitation programs to help improve patient mobility, function and strength.

Education: High School graduate with basic knowledge of therapeutic assistive methods and techniques in rehabilitation therapy.

Work Experience: At least one (1) year of work experience assisting in therapeutic activities.

To Apply: This job opportunity is for a full-time position. Interested applicants may submit their applications, resume, and/or other credentials at the Marianas Health Services Building, Ghiyeghi Street, San Jose, Saipan, CNMI Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Applications may be sent via email to: info@marianashealth.com. Only U.S. qualified workers will be considered.

Marianas Health Services is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
1st Floor, Building 1300, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a Public Hearing on the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Consolidated Block Grant (CBG) FY 2023 Intended Use Plan for the following:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tinian	August 4, 2022	5:30 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	August 8, 2022	5:30 p.m.	Sinapalo Youth Center
Saipan	August 9, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Kagman Community Center

Electronic copy of the FY2023 Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan draft may be viewed on the links below:

DYS Website: www.dys.gov.mp
DCCA Website: www.dcca.gov.mp
CNMI Governor's Website: www.gov.mp

For more information, or to retrieve a hard copy, you may contact 237-1000/1/2 or contact Vivian T. Sablan, DYS Administrator at 237-1003 or via email: vsablan@dys.gov.mp .

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

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IT&E

CUSTOMS

From Page 1

officers of the CNMI Divisions of Customs and Biosecurity after several months of rigorous training in areas such as Constitutional Law, Report Writing for Law Enforcement, Officer Survival Skills, Transportation and Border Security, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Firearms Safety, and more. In addition, the officers earned their Basic Law Enforcement Certificate of Completion, which includes 40 college credits from the Northern Marianas College.

Attended by several dignitaries and many family members, and friends, the occasion was graced by the presence of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, and retired U.S Army Lt. Col. Clement R. Bermudes, who all shared inspiring remarks and extended their congratulations to the graduating class. CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro officiated the swearing in of the new officers.

In her remarks, Oiterong said, "I've very proud of myself [and] my fellow cadets. We've made it all the way until graduation day. No one fell out, no one dropped out and so I'm really happy about that."

In a later interview, when asked what made her go into this line of work, she said "I chose Customs because I wanted to go into a field where I can give back to the community, and Customs does that when it does investigations into the things we are trying to keep out of our island."

Class salutatorian Tindin L. Leon Guerrero said that he had been an early entry in the academy and has been involved in the program for a year. "It's a good feeling. All the hard work paid off," he said. "I'm very excited about this career. I chose this career because it would get me further into what I want to pursue, which is federal law." Leon Guerrero also received a Physical Fitness Award.

Class salutatorian Tindin L. Leon Guerrero receives his Basic Law Enforcement Certificate from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during the 9th Cycle Customs and Biosecurity academy graduation ceremony, yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom in Susupe. CHRYSTAL MARINO

Class valedictorian Uchelbil Emylene Oiterong shakes Finance Secretary David Atalig's hand after receiving her Basic Law Enforcement Certificate during the 9th Cycle Customs and Biosecurity academy graduation ceremony yesterday at athe Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom in Susupe. CHRYSTAL MARINO

Also receiving special recognition were Kane P. Ybanez, who received the Leadership Award, and Raymond Babauta who was Top Gun.

Upon the completion of the academy, and receiving their Basic Law Enforcement Certificate, the graduates also earned 40 college credits from NMC.

The 9th Cycle Customs and Biosecurity Academy was a partnership between NMC and the Division of Customs and Biosecurity, and was provided support from many other agencies as well. The 29 graduates had been involved in the academy's intensive physical and educational training as cadets since March this year, with the curriculum involving a mix of academics and hands-on training.

CHCC

From Page 1

CHCC reported that 173 more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 from July 17 to 23, 2022, bringing the CNMI total to 12,573 cases since March 28, 2020; two were identified before July 17, 2022.

Of the recently identified cases, nine were identified on July 17 (one on Tinian); 55 on July 18; 20 on July 19; 32 on July 20 (four on Tinian); 22 on July 21 (one on Tinian); 17 on July 22 (two on Tinian); and 18 on July 23 (three on Tinian).

With this uptick in community cases, the CNMI remains at COVID-19 Community Level Medium. The CNMI has been at the "Medium" Level since the latter part of June this year.

As of July 25, 2022, a total of 24,202 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 52.8% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population. A correction has been made to show the accurate percentage of those eligible who have received an additional dose.

A total of 2,338 COVID-19 tests were conducted from July 17 to 23, 2022:

- 74 on July 17, 2022
- 548 on July 18, 2022
- 425 on July 19, 2022
- 107 on July 20, 2022
- 421 on July 21, 2022
- 577 on July 22, 2022
- 186 on July 23, 2022

Of the total number of cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of July 23, 2022, there have already been 12,429 recoveries; 107 active cases; and 37 COVID-19-related deaths

The next CHCC report will be issued around Aug. 1, 2022.

Guidelines for residents

While we are in COVID-19 Community Level Medium:

- Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk
- If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease
  - ❏ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)
  - ❏ Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or knowing how to access testing)
  - ❏ Talk to your health care provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and monoclonal antibodies
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:
  - ❏ Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
  - ❏ Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MAFNAS

From Page 1

this case Mafnas' reassignment, to preserve the status quo pending final judgment of the case.

In the motion for a TRO, Hodson said her client wants the court to issue a temporary restraining order pursuant to Rule 65(b) of the NMI Rules of Civil Procedure, preventing Finance from removing Mafnas from his position as Customs and Biosecurity director or to otherwise reinstate him until the court has decided on her client's motion for a preliminary injunction.

"If the court issues a temporary restraining order without notice, [the court should] schedule a hearing on Mafnas' motion for preliminary injunction…at the earliest possible time, pursuant to Rule 65(b)(3) of the NMI Rules of Civil Procedure," she added.

Also, Hodson said, her client is prepared, if necessary, to provide a security payment for the issuance of the temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction.

"…Applied for in the sum deemed proper to pay the costs and damages sustained by any party found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained by this court per Rule 65(c), but asserts that any such costs are minimal and any required security should therefore be minimal," she said.

According to the memorandum in support of a TRO and preliminary injunction, Hodson argues that Mafnas meets the standard for issuance of a preliminary injunction because his claims have a strong likelihood of success on the merits; because the level of the threat of irreparable harm to her client is high if an injunction is not issued; because the balance of hardships between the parties' tips in favor of Mafnas; and because an injunction would serve the public interest.

As to the argument of "strong likelihood of success on the merits," Hodson said to prevail on his claim, Mafnas must show that his likelihood of success is "more than negligible."

"This court has the authority to declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking the declaration in a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction. An actual controversy exists here between Mafnas and the secretary of Finance and/or the Department of Finance and/or the Commonwealth government as to the secretary of Finance's decision to 'reassign' Mafnas to the Department of Commerce," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

Atalig said in an interview with reporters that media archives would show that he shared with the Legislature last October that they have a year to come up with revenue-generating bill or options to help the retirees and that he had urged them not wait up to the last minute.

The Finance secretary noted the Legislature's inaction when asked for comments about two lawmakers' criticism of the governor's revised budget submission for the government's operations in fiscal year 2023.

At a recent session of the House of Representatives, House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) questioned Torres' proposed revised budget submission, which according to him does not include operational budget for any of the agencies, yet allocates salary increases for Cabinet members.

At the same session, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) shared Manglona's disappointment, describing the governor's proposed budget submission as "reckless and completely irresponsible."

Manglona and Sablan said no proposal was also included for the payment of the 25% pension to the Settlement Funds for the retirees.

Atalig pointed out yesterday that Public Law 20-10 authorizes him to pay the 25% pension for the retirees, much of that sourced from the casino tax revenue. "As we all know, the casino [Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC] has not been operating for a couple of years, so there's no revenue," he said.

Atalig said that in his April submission of the administration's budget proposal for the government's operations for fiscal year 2023, he reiterated with the Legislature the administration's lack of authority and resources to supplement the payment of 25% pension. He also told the Legislature at that time that the 25% pension in fiscal year 2022 is being funded with the use of the Community Disaster Loan the CNMI received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said the use of the loan is allowable and is part of the CNMI's spending plan for that loan.

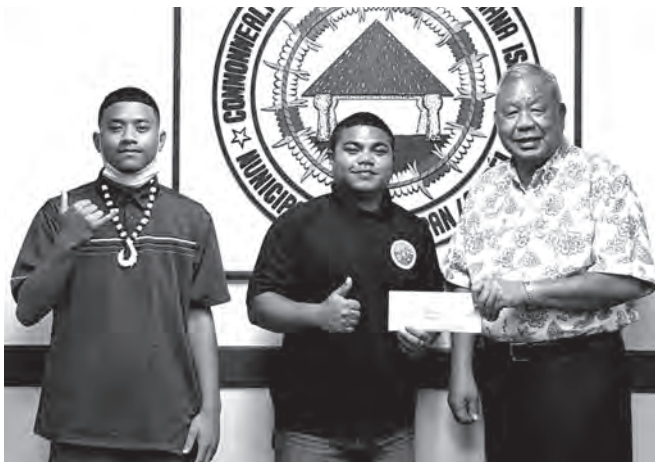
In his April budget submission and subsequent interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the Finance secretary said the Legislature should act soon, considering that there is no $13 million casino Business Gross Revenue Tax collection in fiscal year 2023 to pay the 25% pension.

Atalig said yesterday that if the Legislature gives Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' 100% reprogramming authority, that allows him (Atalig) to use other resources to pay the 25% pension of the retirees.

Atalig said he and Torres are committed in looking for resources to ensure that retirees continue to get their 25% pension so that they can have the full 100% pension.

"It is the governor's mission since the very beginning to ensure that we get to pay the retirees' full pension. We're obligated to do so," he said.

Under a global settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund, the government agrees to make annual payments that will enable the Settlement Fund to pay at least 75% of the class members' (retirees) pension benefits. The government is not mandated under the settlement to pay the retirees' 25% pension.



FLOAT PRIZE WINNERS

Representatives of the Department of Public Works, one of the four groups that tied for second place in the best float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day parade last July 4, receive their monetary prize at the award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

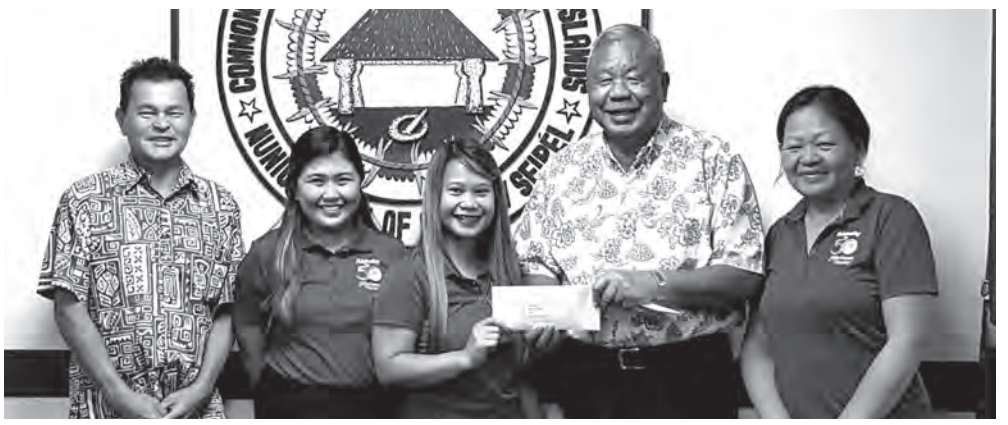
CHRYSTAL MARINO

Kirida-Highlands Lawn Care, which won fourth place in the best float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day parade, accept the monetary prize at an award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The 180 Productions, which won sixth place in the best float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day parade, accept their monetary prize at an award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO



As one of the two groups that placed third for best float in the 2022 Liberation Day parade, Marianas Variety representatives receive their monetary prize at the award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Office of the Governor, which won fifth place in the best float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day parade, accept their monetary prize at an award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

As one of the two groups that placed third for best float in the 2022 Liberation Day parade, Triple J representatives receive their monetary prize at the award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Representatives of the Department of Commerce, one of the four groups that tied for second place in best float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day parade, receive their monetary prize at the award presentation last July 18, 2022, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

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Attorney for Petitioner Patrick Jay S. Rodeo

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CYNTHIA SALAS RODEO, Decedent.	:	Civil Action No.: 22-0155 CV **NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: CYNTHIA SALAS RODEO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Patrick Jay Salas Rodeo for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 18th day of August, 2022, 10:00 at a.m., at Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, **CYNTHIA SALAS RODEO**, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2022.

/s/ HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2022

Opening date: July 13, 2022 **Closing date: August 03, 2022**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Internal Auditor	UNGRADED
	(1) Accounts Clerk	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I	PL 4/1 to 4/12 ($8.41/hr. to $14.38/hr.
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(2) General Maintenance I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 03, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Coalition presses Biden's administration to overrule *Insular Cases*

A national coalition consisting of leading civil rights organizations, members of Congress, former acting U.S. solicitor general Neal Katyal, individuals harmed by U.S. colonialism, and other advocates joined a recent virtual press conference to call on the Biden-Harris administration to condemn rather than continue embracing the Supreme Court's racist *Insular Cases*, a series of controversial decisions that established a colonial framework for the 3.6 million residents of U.S. territories.

The Biden-Harris Administration has until Friday, July 29, to decide whether to join or oppose calls to overrule the *Insular Cases*, when it must respond to a Supreme Court petition in *Fitisemanu v. United State*—a case about birthright citizenship in U.S. territories which asks, in part, "whether the *Insular Cases* should be overruled."

Advocates continue to call on Biden-Harris administration to reject *Insular Cases*

July 12's press conference was co-sponsored by Equally American, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and American Civil Liberties Union. LatinoJustice, ACLU, and other leading civil rights organizations wrote the U.S. Justice Department earlier this year calling on it to condemn the *Insular Cases*. They also recently filed an amicus brief in *Fitisemanu,* calling on the Supreme Court to take up the petition to finally overrule the *Insular Cases*.

"The Biden-Harris Justice Department has not just cited the *Insular Cases*, but actually cited the most racist parts of these decisions, to argue that those born in U.S. territories—overwhelmingly people of color—have no constitutional right to citizenship. It is time the Justice Department join rather than oppose the calls of those who seek to turn the page on the *Insular Cases* and the colonial legacy they created," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, co-counsel for plaintiffs in *Fitisemanu*. The *Fitisemanu* petitioners are also represented by Gibson Dunn and American Samoan attorney Charles Ala'ilima.

"The *Insular Cases* were decided by largely the same court as *Plessy v. Ferguson*—the case that justified racial segregation in the United States. They are grounded in the same discredited notions of white supremacy, yet unlike *Plessy*, the *Insular Cases* have yet to be overruled. Although the *Insular Cases* rest on archaic, offensive, and explicitly racist reasoning, the U.S. government still relies on them to enforce the colonial status quo," said Lourdes M. Rosado, president and general counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

"Last year, President Biden addressed discrimination against residents of U.S. territories in federal benefits programs by declaring 'there can be no second-class citizens in the United States of America.' So long as the United States has territories, the people who live there should enjoy the same basic rights and protections as people who live anywhere else in the United States—their race, geography, or status should not justify discrimination," said David Cole, National Legal Director of ACLU.

Neal Katyal, former acting solicitor general in the Obama-Biden Justice Department, also joined in the call for the Biden-Harris Justice Department to condemn the *Insular Cases*. Katyal recently filed an amicus brief in *Fitisemanu* on behalf of descendants of Dred Scott and Isabel Gonzalez.

"The *Insular Cases* are among the most terrible Supreme Court cases in U.S. history, and I very much hope that the Justice Department does not defend them today. One of my proudest moments as acting solicitor general was finally reckoning with the government's role in *Korematsu* and the internment of Japanese-Americans—now is the time for the Justice Department to reckon with its role in the *Insular Cases* and the colonial framework they established," said Katyal, a partner at Hogan Lovells**.**

Fitisemanu petitioners ask solicitor general to join in call to overrule *Insular Cases*

The *Fitisemanu* petitioners, through their lead counsel at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, has sent a letter to the Solicitor General of the United States "to urge the government to…join petitioners in asking the Supreme Court to finally and formally overturn the *Insular Cases*," noting "[t]here are overwhelming legal, policy, and moral grounds to do so."

Members of Congress call on Biden and Harris to condemn *Insular Cases*

Delegate Stacey Plaskett, who represents the U.S. Virgin Islands as a non-voting delegate to Congress, and Rep. Raúl Grijalva, chair of the House Resources Committee, led a group of 23 members of Congress in a letter sent to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris that urges the Biden-Harris administration to "reject the *Insular Cases* and the racist colonial framework they invented." They provided the following statements that were read at the press conference:

"The *Insular Cases*, a series of *Plessy*-era Supreme Court decisions, established a racist and colonial legal framework that has denied the 3.6 million residents of U.S. territories equal constitutional rights and left them structurally disenfranchised for nearly 125 years," said Plaskett. "In 2022, no one should use the racist language from the *Insular Case*s to deny citizenship rights to people born in U.S. territories. Not federal judges. And certainly not the Biden-Harris Justice Department."

"I am committed to elevating and supporting the voices of all Americans, including those in the territories that have long been ignored and whose privileges as citizens have been denied to them solely based on where they happen to live," said Grijalva. "Equal justice under the law and access to basic rights and protections should not be conditional on where you live or where you were born."

Insular Cases continue to harm people from US territories

John Fitisemanu, lead plaintiff in *Fitisemanu v. United States*, was among several individuals from U.S. territories who spoke about the harms that the *Insular Cases,* and the colonial framework they established, have had on their lives.

"I am a passport-holding, tax-paying American born on U.S. soil, yet the U.S. Justice Department continues to rely on the racist *Insular Cases* to argue that I have no right to call myself a U.S. citizen or vote in state and federal elections. That hurts—those cases said people in overseas U.S. territories were 'unfit' for citizenship and voting because they were 'savages.' Haven't we moved past that?" said John Fitisemanu**,** born in American Samoa and who now lives in Utah**,** where he cannot vote in state or federal elections as a non-citizen.

"The Biden Harris Administration has the opportunity to take a stand and help turn the page on the *Insular Cases* and the discriminatory framework they created," said David Diamadi, the father of Haley Nicole Diamadi, both of whom live in Guam**.** "I feel my daughter Haley deserves better. Every disabled adult living in the U.S. territories deserves better. And by better I simply mean as equals, no more, no less than our fellow citizens in the United States."

"Not having a vote matters when your community is ravaged like ours was by Hurricane Irma and Maria. Not having a vote matters when your community is denied equality and federal benefits. Not having a vote matters when generations of friends and loved ones are sent to war with some never coming back, and never having the right to vote for their own commander-in-chief," said Lavonne Wise, a plaintiff in *Segovia v. United States***,** which sought to expand voting rights in U.S. territories. "It's long past time to override the insular cases and dismantle the un-American colonial system they established."

"Last year President Biden addressed ongoing discrimination against Puerto Ricans by declaring 'there can be no second-class citizens in the United States of America.' That gave me hope. But at the same time his Administration continues embracing the racist *Insular Cases*," said Louis Lajara, who retired from the U.S. Air Force and served as a postmaster in his home of Puerto Rico. "Ending second-class citizenship means ending the *Insular Cases*—President Biden needs to take action now to live up to his promises."

Next steps

The call on the Biden-Harris Administration to condemn the *Insular Cases* is part of a broader campaign to overrule the *Insular Cases* and dismantle the colonial framework they established. Additional information about this campaign is available here.

The U.S. Department of Justice has until July 29, 2022**,** to tell the Supreme Court whether it will join advocates calling for the *Insular Cases* to be overruled, or whether it will oppose them.

The Supreme Court will decide whether to take up the case, and with it, the call to overrule the *Insular Cases,* when it considers the *Fitisemanu* petition this fall. ***(PR)***

LDS breaks ground on new meetinghouse in Romanum

Led by Romanum Branch resident Siramino Walter, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints broke ground on what will be a new meetinghouse on Romanum Island in the Chuuk Lagoon last July 2, 2022.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints broke ground on what will be a new meetinghouse on Romanum Island in the Chuuk Lagoon last July 2, 2022, for the church's Romanum Branch, which was established in 1984.

Branch president Siramino Walter led the groundbreaking ceremony. The opening song was followed by the invocation given by Kanta Kuss, 2nd counselor. Remarks were presented by Tarsisio Walter. District president Gacayan offered the dedicatory prayer. The program concluded with a closing song and a benediction by Joel Joseph.

Church leaders, members, and friends were in attendance. Invited guests in the community included Titakus Ran (acting principal Romanum), Kachichuru Ranu (traditional chief Romanum), Misael Emmis (associate judge Romanum), Rey Carlos Jr. (Engineer Plec Construction), Mari Grace Lunabotan (Accountant Plec Construction), Jhonny Walter (Speaker municipal Romanum), and Fanantin Conrad (president Saint Joseph Parish Romanum). Wearing orange vests and hard-hats, they took shovels in hand to break ground.

Romanum Island, one of the outer islands of Chuuk, is located about 630 miles southeast of Guam. Construction on the new meetinghouse is expected to be completed in July 2023.

Chuuk is renowned as one of the four "Meccas" of wreck diving. In 1944 the U.S. Navy conducted Operation Hailstone, the largest surface bombing campaign in history, wiping out a Japanese fleet stationed at the island. ***(PR)***

Guam PTAC sets final webinar for July

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is hosting our last webinar for this month on July 28, 2022: How to Get WOSB Certified. WOSB is an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

This webinar runs from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Habele scholarships expand access to Micronesia private schools

COLONIA, Yap—Fifty-four promising students across Micronesia have been awarded tuition scholarships to attend the nation's top-performing private elementary and high schools across three Micronesian states.

The K12 tuition scholarships are provided by Habele, a U.S. nonprofit serving students and schools across the Federated States of Micronesia. Established by former Peace Corps volunteers who lived and taught in the Islands, Habele has been granting tuition assistance to Micronesian students since 2006.

"These investments in individual students highlight the deep personal connections between the United States and our allies in the Freely Associated States," said American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen. "Though our governments are united by formal alliances and treaties, it is the personal ties of our peoples, over decades of shared history, that make the relationships truly vibrant. My family lived in Micronesia for almost 17 years, both on Majuro and Saipan and I also lived [in] Guam while attending the University of Guam, while I have nieces and nephews with Marshallese and Chamorro heritage through marriages of my brothers. As a former Peace Corps employee in the Pacific, I'm also pleased to see the scholarships were established by former Peace Corps volunteers."

The Compact of Free Association allows Micronesian students to come to the United States for college, where they are eligible for generous federal grants that pay for their higher education. However, many young people in Micronesia—particularly from lower income families—aren't able to take advantage of these opportunities because they don't complete high school prepared to succeed in American higher education. Habele's K12 tuition scholarships help place such students in high achieving, independent schools, and on a path toward ultimately obtaining a college degree.

Habele scholars come from villages across the hundreds of islands and atolls that comprise the Federated States of Micronesia. Students from Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei, as well as their lagoon and outer islands, will be attending 11 different schools in 2022-23, including Xavier High School, Saint Mary's, Faith Christian Academy, and SDA Schools in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei.

The K12 scholarships are entirely funded by donations from individual Americans who support Habele. Most are themselves former Peace Corps volunteers, civil servants, tourists or contractors who spent time in Micronesia. This is the 17th year Habele has awarded merit and needs-based scholarships, which average between 50 and 75% of the total tuition families owe. The nongovernmental organization also provides book donations, support for traditional skills mentorships, and organizes high school-based robotics clubs. Habele remains the only U.S. nonprofit exclusively focused on serving students and schools within FSM. Among the 54 scholarships awarded are several memorial scholarships. These honor the legacy of specific individuals whose life or work "embodied the best of the longstanding U.S.-Micronesian partnership." Introduced this year, the Martin Yinug Memorial Scholarship honors the late Chief Justice of the Micronesian Supreme Court, and his outspoken commitment to public service, rule of law and judiciary independence. Another, the Marshall Wees Memorial Scholarship, honors a U.S. Navy doctor who battled an outbreak of yaws that was ravaging the native population of Federai Island during the War in the Pacific.

"Being one of the Habele Scholarship recipients for the past two years is a tremendous honor and a joy," said Sheridan Giltamag. A rising junior at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, Giltamag earned a 3.9 grade point average over the course of last school year. She and her family have also been involved in WeavingConnections, a Habele program to support mentor-based preservation of traditional weaving skills. "The scholarship indeed helps my parents with tuition obligations at OLMCHS in Pohnpei. In addition to the financial support, Habele scholarship has motivated and helped me in many ways, which include keeping up with my grades, spending more time with my school work, and the importance of education and my future." ***(PR)***

Amata, other lawmakers urge more Peace Corps presence in the Pacific

» Letter calls on Peace Corps to strengthen US ties in the region

Congressional representatives of the U.S. Congress have recently joined an effort led by their colleagues to push for the reopening of Peace Corps programs in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, which were suspended at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata has taken part in an effort led by Sen.r Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Ed Case (HI-01), and their colleagues, Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) Jon Ossoff (D-Georgia.), and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii); and Reps. Thomas R. Suozzi (NY-03), Dina Titus (NV-01), John Garamendi (CA-03), Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in a letter to the acting director of the Peace Corps program, Carol Spahn, affirming their support for the resumptio of Peace Corps programs in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. In their letter, the lawmakers argue that the reestablishment of these programs will strengthen the Peace Corps' ability to support vulnerable communities in the Pacific Island region.

"As a former Peace Corps employee, and parent of a former Peace Corps volunteer, I've seen firsthand that the Peace Corps makes a difference for people, and I support establishment of the Peace Corps in more Pacific locations," said Amata.

"Peace Corps volunteers everywhere play a key role in strengthening the people-to-people ties between the United States and their host countries," the lawmakers wrote in their letter. "The renewal of and return to in-person programs can be a starting point for greater Peace Corps presence in the Pacific Islands, which promotes a strong, vibrant, and resilient region."

The four Peace Corps programs that will soon be reinstated are far fewer than the 13 that previously existed in the region. The lawmakers called upon the Peace Corps to reexamine their decision to close programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federates States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, all of which used to have robust volunteer programs, and to conduct a formal evaluation to gauge the ease with which the agency could reinstate programs in these three countries, taking into account the importance of the health and safety of Peace Corps volunteers.

"The countries of the Pacific Islands are at high risk for some of the most extreme impacts of climate change," the legislators wrote. "We are confident that restoring programs in each of the Freely Associated States will be to the benefit of volunteers, host governments, and the common cause of building communities that are resilient to the challenges we collectively face."

In addition to program locations, the letter also requests that the Peace Corps prioritize work that assists local communities suffering from the effects of climate change, given the vulnerability of Pacific Island countries to the worst impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels.

On July 12, Vice President Kamala Harris announced before the Pacific Islands Forum the reopening of the four programs in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, and indicated the Peace Corps would work with partners in the region to explore program expansion to additional Pacific Island countries. ***(PR)***

USCG cutter offloads potable water, supplies on Kiribati island

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Juniper* crew provided assistance to Kiritimati Island, Kiribati, by offloading potable water and supplies last July 19, 2022, following their extreme drought. In a unified effort with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, the U.S. Coast Guard provided much needed assistance by supplying over 4,000 gallons of safe drinking water, 200 buckets with lids, 600 10-liter water containers, and two 10,000-liter water bladders.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Juniper* crew provided assistance to Kiritimati Island, Kiribati, by offloading potable water and supplies last July 19, 2022, following their extreme drought.

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"We are honored to be given the opportunity to assist in the effort being made to help the people of Kiribati," said Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Bonner, the *Juniper*'s commanding officer. "This mission to provide safe drinking water and supplies to Kiritimati Island was made possible by the timely coordination conducted by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and the Kiribati government."

While maintaining strict COVID-19 precautions, the crew of the *Juniper* conducted multiple offloads of water and supplies while working with UNICEF representatives to support the local residents.

"On behalf of UNICEF Pacific, let me again express our gratitude to the USCG and USAID for your support with the drought relief efforts in Kiribati," said Nick Rice Chudeau, chief of UNICEF Kiribati. "We deeply value our partnership in the country for the benefit of all I-Kiribati children and their families."

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance, the *Juniper* crew supported Kiribati maritime law enforcement efforts during Operation Blue Pacific, providing patrol coverage in Kiribati's exclusive economic zone in the effort to deter illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, strengthen maritime governance in Oceania, and support Kiribati resource security.

"This mission is a great example of the Coast Guard's commitment to being a partner in the Blue Pacific and helping respond to a climate crisis," said Rear Adm. Michael Day, the 14th Coast Guard district commander. "We are proud to work alongside USAID and UNICEF to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Kiribati. The U.S. Coast Guard will continue to partner with Pacific island countries building climate resilience in the region."

The Coast Guard cutter *Juniper* is a unique platform with capabilities to conduct a wide array of Coast Guard missions including maintaining aids to navigation and law enforcement. The 225-foot sea-going buoy tender can reach speeds of 16-knots and is able to cover a distance of 6,000 nautical miles before needing to re-fuel, greatly increasing its interoperability with regional partners in Districts 14's vast area of operation. ***(USCG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Beef up hiring of Border Patrol agents now

It's been a busy couple of weeks for the U.S. Border Patrol.

Then again, it usually is.

Last week, agents from San Clemente Station in California seized more than 65 pounds of methamphetamine and 41 pounds of cocaine in two separate incidents.

On June 12, agents stopped a vehicle on Interstate 5, and a search yielded 30 total packages containing 31 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of $68,200. The driver was a U.S. citizen.

The next day, according to U.S. Border Patrol, San Clemente agents stopped another vehicle on Interstate 5. Agents searched the interior and found narcotics hidden in the roof.

It was quite a haul—34.5 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of $75,900, and .41 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of $576,600.

There have been other drug interceptions, including Friday's bust in Texas. There, at the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, a "canine and non-intrusive inspection system examination" uncovered 38 packages hidden in the tires of a trailer truck that was supposed to be carrying juice, CBP said.

Those packages contained 87 pounds of cocaine, with a total estimated street value of $671,160.

This is what our Border Patrol does, and the scourge of illegal drugs is one of the reasons so many have rallied so long for beefed up border protections.

"Criminal organizations poison our communities with these narcotics and only care about the proceeds they make from their eventual sale." said San Diego Sector Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke.

The problem is, there aren't enough agents.

But in a rare bright moment on Capitol Hill, a new bipartisan measure would require the Department of Homeland Security to increase hiring. According to CBP, the agency is down about 900 officers.

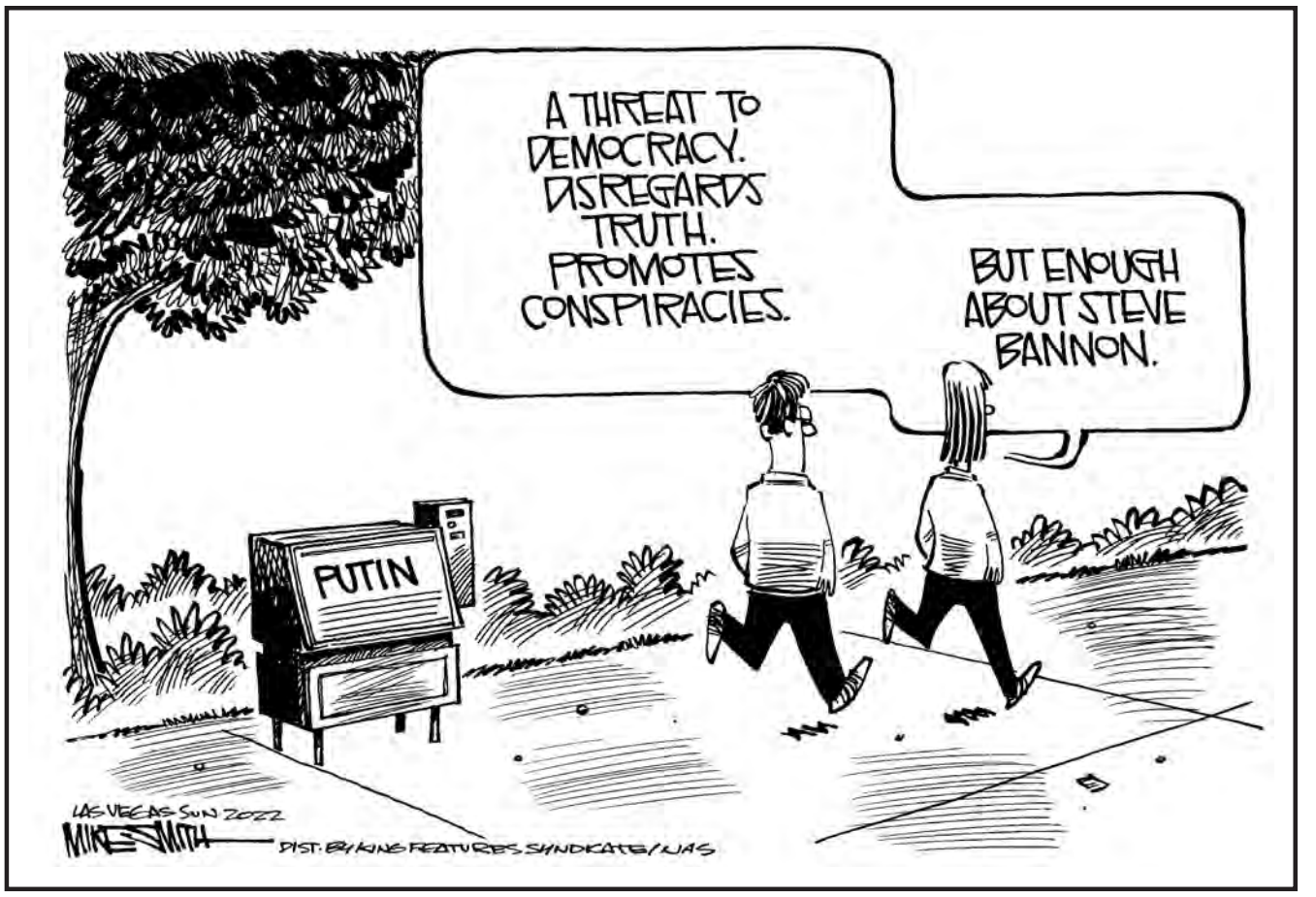
The Securing America's Ports of Entry Act of 2022 was introduced in March by Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., with nine Republican, Democratic and Independent co-sponsors. It would require Customs and Border Protection to hire at least 600 additional officers per year until the agency meets its staffing goals.

The bill got ringing endorsements from trade, travel and law enforcement stakeholders, including John Drake, vice president of Supply Chain Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Hector Garza, national vice president of the National Border Patrol Council.

Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, has for years called on Congress to provide more staffing resources at CBP.

"It is clear that our ports of entry are understaffed and employees have stepped up to keep operations moving," Reardon said. "Now that international trade and travel are

See BEEF on Next Page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If Donald Trump walks while only Jan. 6 bit players are punished, our democracy is doomed

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER
The Sacramento Bee

Jan. 6 rioter Stephen Ayres isn't nearly as deserving of our sympathy as the U.S. Capitol police officers to whom he apologized this week.

Still, I did feel for him as he testified about being conned into marching off to stop a steal that Donald Trump knew wasn't happening.

And if we keep prosecuting insurrectionist minnows like Ayres—874 rioters had been arrested at last count—but then let the flounder-in-chief swim free of the net, the former president's coup attempt will have succeeded, not in denying Joe Biden's rightful election, but by doing grave damage to our democracy.

Because even if Trump never again sets foot in the White House, even for a holiday party, he will not just have undermined confidence in our democracy, but will have wrecked it beyond rehab. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," Abraham Lincoln said. Our 45th president will make this one a teardown still unless we hold him accountable.

If Trump isn't prosecuted for trying to hold onto power through an unprecedented jumble of illegal schemes, who will be able to say, even aspirationally, that in America, no one is above the law?

Trump's army of those willing to be conned is not innocent.

Because as Rep. Liz Cheney said of the former president himself, in response to efforts to defend him as having been manipulated by the "crazies" who were his outside advisers, "Donald Trump is a 76-year-old man. He is not an impressionable child. Just like everyone else in our country, he is responsible for his own actions and his own choices."

So yes, those who stormed the Capitol are, if not responsible adults, still responsible for what they did that day. Yet I believe Ayres when he says that with "horse blinders" blocking his full view of the facts, he really believed that it was Trump who had won the 2020 presidential election, and Trump who was being cheated.

"At the time, yeah. Everything I was seeing online, I definitely believed that was the case. I was very upset, as were most of his supporters. That's basically what got me to come down here."

For 20 years, the 39-year-old who describes himself as a family man who loves his country had worked for a cabinet company near his hometown of Champion, Ohio, population 9,005. But since answering Trump's tweeted call to action and driving six hours to Washington to become part of the mob that attacked the U.S. Capitol last January, he's lost his job and sold his home.

"It changed my life, not for the good," Ayres told the congressional committee investigating the insurrection. "Definitely not for the better."

In exchange for pleading guilty to disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, he's had a bunch of other charges dropped and will be sentenced in September.

That the former president is still making the same old bogus claims about election fraud "makes me mad," Ayres said. "I was hanging on every word he was saying. Everything he was putting out, I was following it."

Now, he says to others like him, "take the blinders off. Make sure you step back and see what's going on before it's too late."

His apology to several of the 140 officers who rioters hurt that day was better than no apology, even if it doesn't change anything.

But where are the apologies from the many Republican officeholders who have known all along that Trump didn't win, but still misled their constituents by voting against certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victories in Arizona and Pennsylvania?

In California, those who should express some contrition include Reps. Ken Calvert, Mike Garcia, Darrell Issa, Doug LaMalfa, Kevin McCarthy, and Jay Obernolte, as well as former Rep. Devin Nunes, who has since left Congress.

They are at least as responsible as rioters are for the fact that U.S. Capitol Staff Sgt. Aquilino Gonell will never work in law enforcement again as a result of the injuries he suffered on that day.

Because their actions, and those of every other career-minded coward who refused to tell the truth that Trump had lost, period, made the insurrection not only possible but guaranteed.

Because these officeholders had every reason to know better, they are at least as guilty as the 50 Californians charged with having participated in the insurrection they did nothing to prevent.

Most responsible of all, though, is that small man in a big suit, refusing to concede an election he knew he'd lost and indifferent still to the deaths his selfish lies caused.

If all of the nearly 1,000 people who've been arrested for trying to overthrow our government are leading us to the man who most deserves to be held to account, that's one thing.

But most Americans don't think he ever will be made to pay, probably because in Trump's whole rule-bending, norm-flouting, promise and vows, and contract-breaking life, he never has been.

And if that is what happens, it will hurt our country almost as much as what Trump was trying to pull.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The world's oldest trees can outlive anything except humans

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering science. She is host of the* Follow the Science *podcast.*

What's captured people's attention about the Washburn fire raging in Yosemite isn't just its size or scope, but the fact that it threatens a giant Sequoia with a name, Grizzly Giant, and an extreme age: It's almost 3,000 years old.

The oldest trees have scientific as well as sentimental value. There's something alarming about the thought that anything hardy enough to live through multiple millennia could now be in trouble. As it turns out, climate change is not even the worst hazard the oldest trees face.

Trees possess a quality that humans had once attributed to gods: They don't age. Or as forest ecologist Nathan Stephenson puts in a more scientifically accurate way, there's a growing school of thought that trees don't undergo senescence, a programmed slide toward decline and death that puts a limit on the lives of animals. "They die from accidents, like getting attacked by bark beetles, getting burned in a fire … getting infected by a pathogen," said Stephenson, who is a scientist emeritus with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center.

Someone once did a calculation, he said, that if humans didn't senesce but only died when our luck ran out, the average lifespan would be about 700 years. Some unlucky people would die at 5, and some lucky ones would live thousands of years.

Trees, including giant Sequoias, don't have life expectancies of 3,000 or more years. Most never survive the sapling stage, and of those that reach adulthood, most never get to their 1,000th birthday. But a few can last thousands of years.

The only way to ascertain the age of a living tree is to take a pencil-thin section from the trunk and count the rings. While scientists can pick up clues about which trees are likely to be very old, it's almost inevitable that the oldest tree in the world is growing in a remote spot—unmeasured, unknown and unnamed.

But among known trees, the oldest grow in an arid set of jutting peaks called the White Mountains, near California's border with Nevada. They're called bristlecone pines—mid-size trees, with gnarled branches that look like long-dead driftwood. The living bark and needles cover just a few strips and patches of the mostly dead wood. Bristlecones have been measured at ages close to 5,000 years, having sprouted from seeds when humans were just inventing writing on clay tablets.

The oldest ones take root in the harshest environments—the driest, windiest, roughest mountains with the chalkiest soils—places inhospitable to predators, tree-eating beetles, tree-rotting microbes and smaller plants that might build up brushfire fuel.

The ones that live in nicer spots, such as the lower-elevation hills of Death Valley, are more vulnerable, and indeed, some of those are now dying, suffering from beetle infestations and other side effects of human-generated climate change.

The very oldest trees are good at standing up to changes in climate—that's one of their superpowers—but there are some threats that even they can't endure.

The world's oldest recorded tree, called Prometheus, was killed in 1964. A scientist tried to take a core sample using drill called an increment borer. When the instrument got stuck in the tree, the researcher called the Forest Service for help. They said there were plenty of old trees like this one and called in a crew with a chainsaw to cut it down. After the fact, the scientist, who was a graduate student at the time, counted the rings and discovered to his horror that it was nearly 5,000 years old. They'd just chopped down the world's oldest tree.

The current oldest living tree, a bristlecone called Methuselah, endured the extraction of a tree ring core without harm, but spent years getting torn apart by tourists wanting a piece of bark. Now scientists try to keep its location secret.

Similar problems afflict a tree in Chile called Alerce Milenario, a cyprus scientists recently announced as a new contender for the world's oldest tree. It's not the official record holder yet because it's rotten and has lost some of its rings, and so the scientists had to estimate its age, which they claim is around 5,400 years. Alerce Milenario is a charismatic giant tree and attracts tourists who are trampling its roots. Climate change it can handle, but it's not adapted to being loved to death.

And for the giant Sequoias, there's another threat. Stephenson said that the trees are well adapted to a natural cycle of fire, but not to the kinds of megafires that result when humans suppress fire for decades, allowing an explosive buildup of small trees, brush and other fuel. When those finally catch, flames can rise more than 100 feet and burn the crowns. He said fires have killed 13% to 19% of all the giant Sequoias in the last few years alone. Our current period of global warming and Southwestern drought are also contributing risk factors for megafires.

And of course, global warming is cause for alarm even if it spares the toughest, oldest trees. The more enduring threat of climate change is the collapse of complex ecosystems. It will leave us in a diminished world, a world less able to provide food and clean water to billions of humans. The most weather-hardened gods, looking down from their Olympus, won't miss us.

Biden's COVID diagnosis is a wake-up call for America

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. He is coauthor of Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

The news that President Joe Biden has tested positive for COVID should serve as a wake-up call for the rest of us: Almost three years on, the pandemic is still not going very well.

Perhaps it's human nature to put bad news out of mind. Still, one reason so many people have chosen to ignore COVID-19 may be that they are wary, and weary, of public health authorities. If people admit COVID is still a big problem, they are implicitly giving regulators permission to control their lives once again. But people are tired of lockdowns, mandatory testing, canceled school sessions and travel restrictions. And so they are fighting back with the ultimate form of nonviolent resistance—forgetting about the issue altogether.

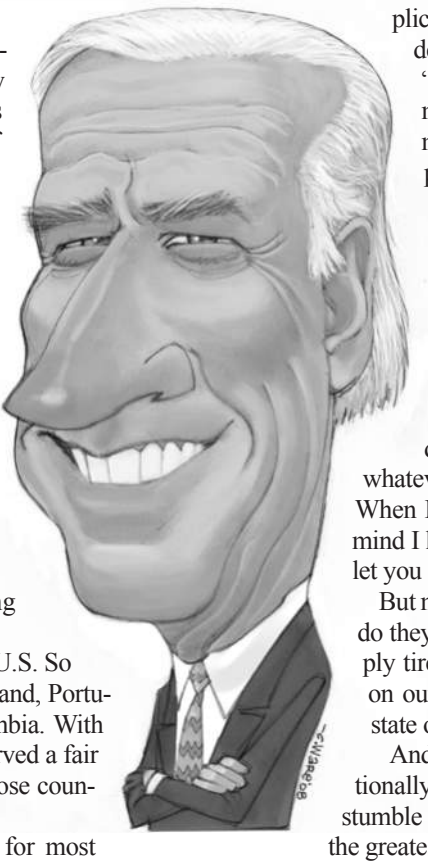
Consider this sorry state of affairs in a broader context.

This post-vaccine phase of COVID is worse than many expectations. More than 300 Americans, and sometimes as many as 400, are dying each day. If COVID were some new malady that had just emerged this year, this would be big news indeed.

The pandemic also continues to have a corrosive effect on the ability to make plans. Even if you are young, in good health and relatively safe, you have to worry about those you might infect. Planning conferences or family trips now is more difficult than it was in 2019, in part because it is not clear who exactly is going to show up.

Another possible problem is long COVID. Even among experts, there are dramatically varying answers as to how bad a problem long COVID is going to be. Some dismiss the phenomenon altogether, others suggest there are incontrovertible biomarkers of its relevance.

As an economist, I view this debate through the concept of expected value. Say that there is a 20% or 30% chance that 1% of the American public will have longer-term problems resulting from COVID infections. The expected costs of that scenario still are enormous.



Yet the response to this crisis remains lackadaisical. There is an urgent need for a new Operation Warp Speed for pan-coronavirus vaccines, which show increasing signs of working against known new and unknown future variants. So far no such plans are in the offing, and updating the previous vaccines (based, to be clear, on now-obsolete strains) may take nearly as long as it did to develop the original vaccines.

Why is the pandemic no longer a preoccupation of most Americans? Even many people I know who used to refresh the various coronavirus trackers regularly, no longer do. People have moved on. (There are exceptions; when I visited the Bay Area last month, I observed people walking alone, outside, wearing masks. Many of them are, unfortunately, still living in 2020.)

The lack of interest is not confined to the U.S. So far this year, I have traveled to England, Ireland, Portugal, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy and Colombia. With the possible exception of Italy, where I observed a fair amount of mask-wearing, most people in those countries seemed to be ignoring COVID-19.

I consider this optimal private behavior for most people; I took off my mask (except for when I had COVID) once I was allowed to. But I worry about the public implications of this attitude. When it comes to pandemics, people seem to have either an "on" or "off" switch. Ideally, the approach should be more along the lines of: "I need to get on with my life, but I will exercise caution when appropriate. In the meantime, a vigorous public-sector response is still needed for better vaccines and therapeutics."

Yet people are afraid that such an attitude could be used against them. And so a variety of defense mechanisms kick in. Some take the form of intellectual chicanery, such as blaming the vaccines rather than the malady, or blaming the failure to deploy hydroxychloroquine, ivermectin or whatever other supposedly miracle cure is on offer. When I hear people create these diversions, in my mind I hear voices screaming: "We are not going to let you do this to us again!"

But most individuals are not so anti-scientific, nor do they have such complex theories. They are simply tired of the pandemic and its consequences—on our longevity, our health, our society and our state of mind.

And so they retreat, if only mentally and emotionally. And a catatonic America continues to stumble through a disappointing response to one of the greatest challenges this country has ever faced.

BEEF

From Page 8

recovering, Congress needs to increase their ranks."

The need is great, and obvious. All that's needed is congressional action.

Congress, however, continues to expend energy on topics such as expanding the Supreme Court and worrying more about winning seats than about the real-world problems that plague Americans.

On this issue, they have to act, ASAP. Even those who don't live in border states are affected.

Case in point, a search warrant served on a Dorchester man Thursday by the Boston Police Department yielded 76 grams of crack cocaine, 160 grams of heroin, 60 grams of powder cocaine, 95 oxycodone pills and 12 gabapentin pills. Who knows where this stash originated.

But the sooner we get more Border Patrol agents on the front lines of drug smuggling, the sooner this trash is off our streets.

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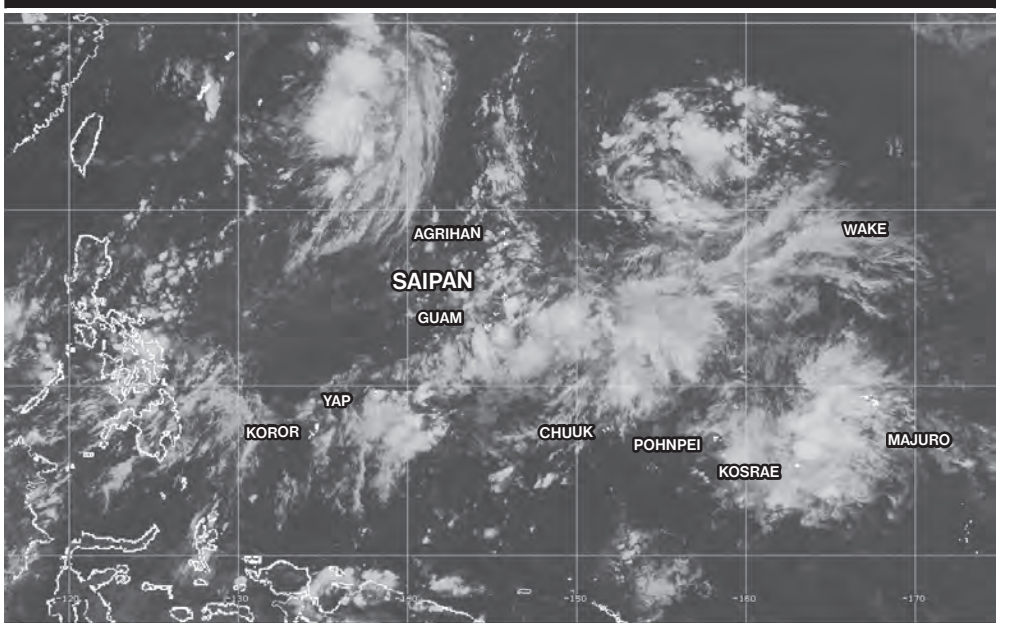
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny,	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy
89º 78º	87º 77º	89º 82º	87º 78º	87º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:29 AM, MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light to moderate northeasterlies prevail in the Marianas today. Satellite imagery indicates showers and thunderstorms embedded within the tropical disturbance to the east. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are approximately 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:31 AM	5:01 PM	-
Wednesday	4:22 AM	5:51 PM	-
Thursday	5:14 AM	6:38 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	7:22 PM	-
Saturday	6:58 AM	8:03 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60° / 58°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 76°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 74°
London	Sunny	71° / 53°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Melbourne	Rain	58° / 42°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 77°
New York	Showers	92° / 80°
Osaka	Sunny	91° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	80° / 59°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	87° / 69°
San Francisco	Cloudy	65° / 53°
Seoul	Cloudy	89° / 72°
Tokyo	Cloudy	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:22 AM	Low Tide	1.46
4:53 AM	High Tide	1.83
12:35 PM	Low Tide	0.04
8:01 PM	High Tide	1.87

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	3, 4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	3, 4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	1, 2, 3, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

‘Day by day’: Trade bans, inflation send food prices soaring

By AYA BATRAWY, EILEEN NG, OMAR FARUK and KAREEM CHEHAYEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker rearranges fruits on display for sale at a shop in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, July 15, 2022. AP

Soki Wu’s food stall, tucked in a food court in a shopping mall in Singapore, is a crowd favorite for its fresh, juicy “chicken rice,” a national dish. But customers recently began complaining that his chicken didn’t taste quite as good as it used to.

Wu was forced to switch to frozen chicken after Malaysia banned exports last month of live broiler chickens that are more affordable and better tasting in a bid to offset rising local prices. For Singapore, which sources a third of its poultry from Malaysia, the impact was immediate.

“This is unavoidable. Using frozen chickens have affected the taste of the dish, but we have no choice,” Wu said.

As inflation surges around the world, politicians are scrambling for ways to keep food affordable as people increasingly protest the soaring cost of living. One knee-jerk response has been food export bans aimed at protecting domestic prices and supplies as a growing number of governments in developing nations try to show a nervous public that their needs will be met.

For business owners, the rising cost of cooking ingredients — from oil to chicken — has prompted them to raise prices, with people paying 10% to 20% more at Wu’s food stall. For consumers, it has meant paying more for the same or lesser-quality food or curbing certain habits altogether.

In Lebanon, where endemic corruption and political stalemate has crippled the economy, the U.N. World Food Program is increasingly providing people with cash assistance to buy food, particularly after a devastating 2020 port blast that destroyed massive grain silos. Constant power cuts and high fuel prices for generators limit what people can buy because they can’t rely on freezers and refrigerators to store perishables.

Tracy Saliba, a single mother of two and business owner in Beirut, says she used to spend around a quarter of her earnings on food. These days, half her income goes to feeding her family as the currency loses strength amid soaring prices.

“I’m not buying (groceries) like I used to,” Saliba said. “I’m just getting the necessary items and food, like day by day.”

Food prices have risen by nearly 14% this year in emerging markets and by over 7% in advanced economies, according to Capital Economics. In countries where people spend at least a third or more of their incomes on food, any sharp increase in prices can lead to crisis.

Capital Economics forecasts that households in developed markets will spend an extra $7 billion a month on food and beverages this year and much of next year due to inflation.

The pain is being felt unevenly, with 2.3 billion people going severely or moderately hungry last year, according to a global report by the World Food Program and four other U.N. agencies.

Food prices accounted for about 60% of last year’s increase in inflation in the Middle East and North Africa, with the exception of oil-producing Gulf countries. The situation is particularly dire for Sudan, where inflation is expected to hit 245% this year, and Iran, where prices spiked as much as 300% for chicken, eggs and milk in May, sparking panic and scattered protests.

In Somalia, where 2.7 million people cannot meet their daily food requirements and where children are dying of malnutrition, sugar is a source of energy. In May, a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of sugar cost about the equivalent of 72 cents in Mogadishu, the capital. A month later, it had shot up to $1.28 a kilogram.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China Evergrande CEO, CFO resign amid probe into subsidiary

NEW YORK (AP)—Struggling Chinese real estate developer China Evergrande has announced that its chief executive and chief financial officer have resigned after initial findings in a probe found $2 billion belonging to its property unit subsidiary was redirected back to the group. The news, announced Friday, comes as the company is already saddled with $310 billion in debt. China Evergrande said CEO Xia Haijun and CFO Pan Darong had resigned over their involvement in an arrangement to use the money as collateral to guarantee a series of loans. The money was then redirected to Evergrande through a third party, the company said. The loans involved three sets of deposits. The company didn’t name the third party. The company is discussing with the subsidiary Evergrande Property Services regarding the repayment plan of the sums related to the pledges. The plan is mainly to set off the relevant sums by transferring assets of the group to Evergrande Property Services.

Alex Jones’ defamation trial finally set to begin in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Jury selection is set for Monday in a trial that will determine for the first time how much Infowars host Alex Jones must pay Sandy Hook Elementary School parents for falsely telling his audience that the deadliest classroom shooting in U.S. history was a hoax. The trial in Austin, Texas—where the conspiracy theorist lives and broadcasts his show—follows months of delays. Jones has racked up fines for ignoring court orders and he put Infowars into bankruptcy protection just before the trial was originally set to start in April. At stake for Jones is another potentially major financial blow that could put his constellation of conspiracy peddling businesses into deeper jeopardy. He has already been banned from YouTube, Facebook and Spotify over violating hate-speech policies. The trial involving the parents of two Sandy Hook families is only the start for Jones; damages have yet to be awarded in separate defamation cases for other families of the 2012 massacre in Newtown, Connecticut.

About 2,500 Boeing workers to strike after rejecting deal

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP)—Roughly 2,500 Boeing workers are expected to go on strike next month at three plants in the St. Louis area after they voted Sunday to reject a contract offer from the plane maker. The strike is planned to begin Aug. 1 at Boeing manufacturing facilities in St. Charles County, St. Louis County and Mascoutah, Illinois, after the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 837 union voted down the contract, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “We cannot accept a contract that is not fair and equitable, as this company continues to make billions of dollars each year off the backs of our hardworking members,” the union said. Boing said in a statement that the Arlington, Virginia-based company is disappointed in the vote, but it will now use its “contingency plan to support continuity of operations in the event of a strike.”

Yellen downplays US recession risk as economic reports loom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said the U.S. economy is slowing but pointed to healthy hiring as proof that it is not yet in recession.

Yellen spoke on NBC’s “Meet the Press” just before a slew of economic reports will be released this week that will shed light on an economy currently besieged by rampant inflation and threatened by higher interest rates. The data will cover sales of new homes, consumer confidence, incomes, spending, inflation, and overall output.

The highest-profile report will likely be Thursday, when the Commerce Department will release its first estimate of the economy’s output in the April-June quarter. Some economists forecast it may show a contraction for the second quarter in a row. The economy shrank 1.6% in the January-March quarter. Two straight negative readings is considered an informal definition of a recession, though in this case economists think that’s misleading.

Yellen

Instead, the National Bureau of Economic Research—a nonprofit group of economists—defines a recession as “a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months.”

Yellen argued that much of the economy remains healthy: Consumer spending is growing, Americans’ finances, on average, are solid, and the economy has added more than 400,000 jobs a month this year, a robust figure. The unemployment rate is 3.6%, near a half-century low.

“We’ve got a very strong labor market,” Yellen said. “This is not an economy that’s in recession.”

Still, Yellen acknowledged the economy is “in a period of transition in which growth is slowing,” from a historically rapid pace in 2021.

She said that slowdown is “necessary and appropriate,” because “we need to be growing at a steady and sustainable pace.”

Slower growth could help bring down inflation, which at 9.1% is the highest in two generations.

Still, many economists think a recession is on the horizon, with inflation eating away at Americans’ ability to spend and the Federal Reserve rapidly pushing up borrowing costs. Last week, Bank of America’s economists became the latest to forecast a “mild recession” later this year.

And Larry Summers, the treasury secretary under President Bill Clinton, said on CNN’s “GPS” Sunday that “there’s a very high likelihood of recession,” as the Fed lifts interest rates to combat inflation. Those higher borrowing costs are intended to reduce consumer spending on homes and cars and slow business borrowing, which can lead to a downturn.

Nation

Crews protect homes as California fire burns near Yosemite

AP
Flames leap from trees as the Oak Fire crosses Darrah Rd. in Mariposa County, Calif., on Friday, July 22, 2022.

JERSEYDALE, Calif. (AP)—A destructive wildfire near Yosemite National Park burned out of control through tinder-dry forest on Sunday and had grown into one of California's biggest blazes of the year, forcing thousands of residents to flee remote mountain communities.

Some 2,000 firefighters battled the Oak Fire, along with aircraft and bulldozers, facing tough conditions that includes steep terrain, sweltering temperatures and low humidity, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

"It's hot out there again today," Cal Fire spokesperson Natasha Fouts said Sunday. "And the fuel moisture levels are critically low."

Crews on the ground protected homes as air tankers dropped retardant on 50-foot (15-meter) flames racing along ridgetops east of the tiny community of Jerseydale.

Light winds blew embers ahead into tree branches "and because it's so dry, it's easy for the spot fires to get established and that's what fuels the growth," Fouts said.

The fire erupted Friday southwest of the park near the town of Midpines in Mariposa County. Officials described "explosive fire behavior" on Saturday as flames made runs through bone-dry vegetation caused by the worst drought in decades.

By Sunday the blaze had consumed more than 22 square miles (56 square km) of forest land, with no containment, Cal Fire said. The cause was under investigation.

Evacuations were in place for over 6,000 people living across a several-mile span of the sparsely populated area in the Sierra Nevada foothills, though a handful of residents defied the orders and stayed behind, said Adrienne Freeman with the U.S. Forest Service.

"We urge people to evacuate when told," she said. "This fire is moving very fast."

Lynda Reynolds-Brown and her husband Aubrey awaited news about the fate of their home from an evacuation center at an elementary school. They fled as ash rained down and the fire descended a hill towards their property.

"It just seemed like it was above our house and coming our way really quickly," Reynolds-Brown told KCRA-TV.

Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for Mariposa County due to the fire's effects.

Flames destroyed at least 10 residential and commercial structures and damaged five others, Cal Fire said. Assessment teams were moving through mountain towns to check for additional damage, Fouts said.

Numerous roads were closed, including a stretch of State Route 140 that's one of the main routes into Yosemite.

California has experienced increasingly larger and deadlier wildfires in recent years as climate change has made the West much warmer and drier over the past 30 years. Scientists have said weather will continue to be more extreme and wildfires more frequent, destructive and unpredictable.

Pacific Gas & Electric said on its website that more than 3,100 homes and businesses in the area had lost power as of Sunday and there was no indication when it would be restored. "PG&E is unable to access the affected equipment," the utility said as flames roared Friday.

The Oak Fire was sparked as firefighters made progress against an earlier blaze, the Washburn Fire, that burned to the edge of a grove of giant sequoias in the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park. The 7.5-square-mile (19-square-km) fire was nearly 80% contained after burning for two weeks and moving into the the Sierra National Forest.

AP-NORC poll: 2 in 3 in US favor term limits for justices

WASHINGTON (AP)—About 2 in 3 Americans say they favor term limits or a mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices, according to a new poll that finds a sharp increase in the percentage of Americans saying they have "hardly any" confidence in the court.

The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 67% of Americans support a proposal to set a specific number of years that justices serve instead of life terms, including 82% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans. Views are similar about a requirement that justices retire by a specific age.

The poll was conducted just weeks after the high court issued high-profile rulings including stripping away women's constitutional protections for abortion and expanding gun rights. The poll also shows more Americans disapprove than approve of the court's abortion decision, with just over half saying the decision made them "angry" or "sad."

The court, which is now taking a summer break, will return to hearing cases in October with diminished confidence among Americans. Now 43% say they have hardly any confidence in the court, up from 27% three months ago.

Inez Parker of Currie, North Carolina, said she's among those who strongly favor limits on justices' service. "I think some of those people have been up there too long. They don't have new ideas. When you get a certain age and everything you get set in your ways just like I'm set in my ways," said the 84-year-old Democrat.

Parker said retired justices can "work in their garden, sit on the porch and fan flies or whatever they want to do."

Jan. 6 panel deepens probe to Trump Cabinet, awaits Thomas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Jan. 6 committee said Sunday it will interview more former Cabinet secretaries and is prepared to subpoena conservative activist Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, who's married to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, as part of its investigation of the Capitol riot and Donald Trump's role.

Lawmakers said they are deepening their inquiry after a series of eight hearings in June and July culminating in a prime-time session Thursday, with plans to interview additional witnesses and reconvene in September to resume laying out their findings to the public.

"We anticipate talking to additional members of the president's Cabinet," said Rep. Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chair. "We anticipate talking to additional members of his campaign. Certainly, we're very focused as well on the Secret Service."

Cheney, R-Wyo., did not identify the Trump administration officials who might come forward, but the committee has previously made clear its interest in speaking with those believed to have considered invoking a constitutional process in the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office after the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, when hundreds of Trump's supporters violently stormed the Capitol and interrupted the certification of Joe Biden's election.

The committee has aired testimony from former Attorney General William Barr, who said he told Trump that widespread voter fraud claims were "bull——" and had "zero basis." In last week's hearing, the committee played testimony from then-Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, who said he urged Trump to call a Cabinet meeting to discuss an orderly transition of power.

ACROSS THE NATION

Biden improves 'significantly,' throat still sore from COVID

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden continues to "improve significantly" despite a lingering sore throat from his coronavirus infection, according to an update Sunday from his doctor. "The president is responding to therapy as expected," wrote Dr. Kevin O'Connor in his latest note. Biden has been taking Paxlovid, an antiviral drug that helps reduce the chance of severe illness. O'Connor wrote that Biden still has a sore throat, though other symptoms, including a cough, runny nose and body aches, "have diminished considerably." Biden tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday morning. O'Connor said Saturday that the president likely became infected with a highly contagious variant, known as BA.5, that is spreading throughout the country, and Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator, said Sunday, "It is the BA.5 variant."

Authorities: 7 hurt in shooting at Los Angeles park

LOS ANGELES (AP)—At least seven people have been injured after gunfire erupted Sunday at a Los Angeles park where a car show was being held. The LA Police Department said the shooting occurred around 3:50 p.m. at Peck Park in LA's San Pedro neighborhood. The LAPD tweeted it wasn't an active shooter situation but provided no more information. The LA Fire Department said the incident occurred at or near the car show and that at least three people suffered gunshot wounds and two of them were in critical condition. Seven people overall were injured and taken to hospitals, according to the fire department.

US marshal, murder suspect injured in shooting near Atlanta

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. (AP)—A U.S. marshal and a suspect in a killing were shot Sunday as officers tried to arrest the man at a mobile home park in an Atlanta suburb, authorities said. Both the officer and the suspect were taken to the hospital and are expected to recover, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation sad in a statement. The marshal was entering the home with other officers to arrest 19-year-old Antonio Murgado around 9:15 a.m. when Murgado fired at police, state agents said. Officers fired back and Murgado was hit several times, investigators said. Murgado was wanted in relation to a killing in Pike County.

Asia

Man opens fire on Philippine campus, killing three people

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A gunman opened fire on university campus in the Philippine capital region on Sunday, killing a former town mayor and two others in a brazen attack ahead of a graduation ceremony, police said.

The suspect was armed with two pistols and a silencer and was captured in a car he commandeered trying to escape the Ateneo de Manila University in suburban Quezon City, police said. He was blocked by witnesses and authorities outside the university gates.

The sprawling university was put under lockdown and the graduation rite at the law school on campus was canceled, police said.

Investigators were trying to determine a motive for the attack, but Quezon City police chief Brig. Gen. Remus Medina said the suspect, apparently a medical doctor, had a long-running feud with Rosita Furigay, a former mayor of Lamitan town in southern Basilan province.

AP

Funeral workers carry a victim's body at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon city, Philippines, Sunday, July 24, 2022.

She died in the attack together with her aide and a university guard. Furigay's daughter, who was supposed to attend the graduation, was wounded and taken to a hospital, a police report said.

Video of the aftermath of the shooting showed students and officials in graduation gowns screaming and running away in panic in the lobby of the school building while others tended to the victims who were sprawled on the ground in the driveway.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who was supposed to be a speaker at the ceremony, was advised to turn back en route to the event, officials said.

Volcanic eruption in Japan forces evacuations in 2 towns

TOKYO (AP)—Dozens of people have evacuated two towns on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu where a volcano spewed ash and large rocks into the nighttime sky.

Large rocks fell as far as 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the Sakurajima volcano Sunday night in the southern prefecture of Kagoshima. Footage on Japan's NHK public television showed orange flames flashing near the crater and dark smoke with ash billowing high above the mountaintop.

Japan's Meteorological Agency raised the eruption alert to the highest level of five and advised 51 residents in two towns facing the volcano to leave their homes.

By Monday morning, 33 of them left their homes for a nursing care facility in a safer part of the region, according to Kagoshima city. NHK said others subject to evacuation might have evacuated to other locations.

"We will put the people's lives first and do our utmost to assess the situation and respond to any emergency," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki told reporters. He called on residents to pay close attention to updates from local authorities to protect their lives.

A dusting of ash was visible on cars in Kagoshima, but no damage or injuries have been reported. Schools in the area are on summer recess but closed Monday for clubs and extracurricular activities.

JMA warned of the potential for falling volcanic rocks within 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) of the crater and possible flow of lava, ash and searing gas within 2 kilometers (1.2 miles).

ASIAN BRIEFS

Group seeks ex-Sri Lankan president's arrest in Singapore

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A human rights group said Sunday it had filed a criminal complaint with Singapore's attorney general to seek the arrest of Sri Lanka's former president for alleged war crimes during his country's civil war. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted from office over his country's economic collapse and fled to Singapore earlier this month. He was defense secretary during Sri Lanka's civil war, which ended in 2009. The International Truth and Justice Project—an evidence-gathering organization administered by a South Africa-based nonprofit foundation —said its lawyers filed the complaint requesting Rajapaksa's immediate arrest. The complaint alleges Rajapaksa committed grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions during the civil war "and that these are crimes subject to domestic prosecution in Singapore under universal jurisdiction." Sri Lanka's economic crisis has left the nation's 22 million people struggling with shortages of essentials, including medicine, fuel

China adds science lab to its orbiting space station

BEIJING (AP)—China added a laboratory to its permanent orbiting space station Monday as it moves toward completing the structure in coming months. The Wentian lab module was launched from the Wenchang space base on the tropical island province of Hainan on Sunday with a large crowd of amateur photographers and space enthusiasts watching. After 13 hours of flight, it successfully docked with the Tiangong station's main Tianhe living module at 3:13 a.m. Monday (1913 GMT), according to the China Manned Space Agency. The Wentian is designed for science and biology experiments, and 23-ton lab module is heavier than any other single-module spacecraft currently in space, according to the state-owned Global Times.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Boat carrying Haitian migrants sinks off Bahamas, killing 17

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A boat carrying Haitian migrants apparently capsized off the Bahamas early Sunday, and Bahamian security forces recovered the bodies of 17 people and rescued 25 others, authorities said. It wasn't clear if there were any people missing after the boat sank about seven miles from New Providence. Prime Minister Philip Brave Davis said in a statement that the dead included 15 women, one man and an infant. He said the people rescued were taken for observation by health workers. Davis said investigators had determined that a twin-engine speed boat left the Bahamas about 1 a.m. carrying as many as 60 people, apparently bound for Miami. Davis said a criminal investigation had begun into the suspected human smuggling operation.

Fire damages homes in southern Greece; more blazes active

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A major fire has broken out in southern Greece, burning homes in villages not far from the famous archaeological site of Ancient Olympia and prompting the evacuations of six villages. The fire broke out Sunday afternoon near the villages of Krestena and Skillountia, which are south and southeast of Ancient Olympia. Authorities messaged residents there and in four other villages to evacuate quickly. Fire Service spokesman Yannis Artopoios said 125 firefighters and 43 fire engines were operating in the area, as well as four planes and four helicopters, but the aircraft can't operate at night. On a positive note, the prevailing northwesterly winds were pushing the fire to the southeast, up a mountain and away from Ancient Olympia, authorities said.

Bus falls off a bridge in Kenya, leaves 21 dead

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A bus fell off a bridge Sunday in Kenya and plunged into a river along the highway, killing at least 21 people, police said. The bus, traveling from the central town Meru along the highway to Nairobi, the capital, "must have developed brake failure, because it was at a very high speed when the accident happened," said senior police official Rono Bunei. The accident occurred about 6:30 p.m. and Red Cross officials said the rescue operation was suspended after nightfall. Alex Mugambi, the manager of a community rescue team, said he believes the death toll is likely to rise.

Pope set for historic apology for school abuses in Canada

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)—Thousands of Indigenous persons are expected to converge Monday on the small Alberta prairie community of Maskwacis to hear a long-awaited apology from Pope Francis for generations of abuse and cultural suppression at Catholic residential schools across Canada. Francis is scheduled to arrive in mid-morning at the site of the former Ermineskin Indian Residential School, now largely torn down. He will pause at the sites of the former school and nearby cemetery before speaking in a large open area to school survivors, their relatives and other supporters. Francis arrived Sunday in Edmonton, where he was greeted by representatives of Canada's three main Indigenous groups—First Nations, Metis and Inuit—along with political and church dignitaries. The pope spent the rest of the day resting at a seminary in the provincial capital. The Canadian government has admitted that physical and sexual abuse were rampant in the state-funded Christian schools that operated from the 19th century to the 1970s.

N. Macedonia: Police find 86 migrants, arrest truck driver

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP)—Police in North Macedonia have found 86 migrants, including minors, crammed into a truck with an attached trailer in the southern part of the country and arrested the truck driver. The migrants from Pakistan, Syria and India were discovered late Saturday during a routine inspection near the border town of Gevgelija, police said Sunday. They did not give any other details about the migrants.Police said a 44-year-old truck driver, identified only by his initials as D.M., was arrested. The migrants are believed to have entered illegally from Greece and were headed to Serbia and onto wealthier European countries. They have been transferred to a reception in Gevgelija, pending deportation to Greece.If convicted of smuggling, the truck driver faces up to five years in prison.

†Emelia Pia
Rideb Petrel
October 24, 2020 – July 19, 2022
In her eternal rest, she now joins her:
Great-Grandparents: †Bernadita Camacho Reyes
†Pedro Mafnas Cruz
Her spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of her family:
Mother: Jazmine Bernadette Cruz Rideb
Father: Peter Paul Petrel/ Parents and Family
Grandparents: Rose Ann DLG. Dela Cruz/ Steven Sanchez Dela Cruz
Jeffrey Camacho Reyes Rideb/ Sheilah C. Rideb
Great Grandmother: Carmen Leon Guerrero Cruz
Dora Camacho Reyes, children, and family
Uncles and Aunties:
Jenise Ann Cruz Rideb/ Jeremy Koshiro and Children
Jay Peter Cruz Rideb/ Michaelle M. Fujihara and Children
Jandra Rose Cruz Rideb/ Jude C. Lizama
Daily mass is offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Monday – Thursday 6:00 a.m.
Your thoughts, prayers, gifts, and presence are sincerely appreciated
and may you be abundantly blessed with God's grace.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Glilisou, and Thank you very much.
From Rose Ann DLG. Dela Cruz/
Steven Sanchez Dela Cruz, children and family.

Overdrive

LEXUS/TNS
The Lexus IS 500.

LEXUS brings back old-fashioned power to IS 500

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The big-brute V-8 engine is vanishing, especially in compact and midsize vehicles. Turbochargers are moving in these days. They're more efficient and squeeze extra power and torque from smaller engines.

Meanwhile, the hybrids reduce fuel consumption and emissions, and every maker is launching plug-in electrics—no local air pollution and lower maintenance costs.

But there's still no denying the heart-thumping thrill that comes when a muscular, naturally aspirated 5.0-liter V-8 rumbles to life?

The 2022 Lexus IS 500 offers perhaps one last chance to hear and feel the power of a V-8 in a premium sport sedan. With this third-generation IS on the streets for nine years now—and an interior in dire need of refresh—a fully redesigned IS 500 is on the horizon. So get the V-8 IS while it's hot—and loud.

The grille was reworked, front fenders stretched and the hood raised two inches to accommodate the monster 5.0-liter V-8. It produces 472 horsepower and 395 pound-feet of torque that gets sent to the rear wheels via an 8-speed automatic transmission.

A raucous acceleration is punctuated by quad-tip exhausts and accentuated by considerable road noise at highway speeds. As if someone might not hear the V-8, there's also a sound control knob to fine-tune the engine sound from the inside.

Despite its roar, the IS 500 comes in a couple of tenths behind its turbocharged counterparts from Germany: BMW 3 Series, Audi S4 and Mercedes C-Class. It's heavier and less nimble than those guys. Oh, and for those who live in foothills or snowy regions, all-wheel-drive is not available.

While it lacks the early quickness of a turbo, it's plenty fast: Punch the throttle and the IS sprints to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds, Lexus says. Its athleticism on twisty roads is enhanced by its adaptive variable suspension and limited slip differential. Downshifts on corners hit the mark with consistency, launching it onto the straightaway, but there are paddle shifters for you control freaks.

Drive modes Sport S and Sport+ fine-tune engine performance. The modes, which change colors of the tachometer, adjust the level of steering assist and damping for sportier handling. A Custom mode adjusts the powertrain (Normal/Eco/Power) and chassis.

With all these options, the IS 500 is ready for weekend track runs and everyday commutes. The ride is firm but handles rougher road surfaces well. Steering is short on feedback, and braking is soft but adequate with 14-inch two-piece rotors up front and 12.7-inch in the rear.

Sooner or later, you're face-to-face with the price of power: EPA estimates 17 mpg city, 25 highway for a 20 mpg combined.

Stepping inside, one might surmise that Lexus was too preoccupied with performance to worry about the interior. It is overdue for updates, starting with gauge designs and the shifter.

But it has a premium look, with the meticulous fit and finish for which Lexus is noted, and the center console and dash are unencumbered and well arranged. The quality of materials on the dash, doors and seats is impressive, and some dramatic colors are available for extra splash. A power moonroof comes standard.

Power-adjustable seats are comfortable and well bolstered, but head and knee space is tight in front and rear. The space crunch continues in the trunk, where there is just 10.8 cubic feet available.

The interior borrows tech improvements made last year for the IS 350. An optional 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen has sharp colors and graphics, and a touchpad controller has replaced the dreadful mouse-like knob from last year. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration are standard.

Sadly missing is a head-up display with at-a-glance driver data. A 17-speaker, 1,800-watt Mark Levinson audio system is available if everyone tires of listening to the sweet music emanating from under the hood.

Every IS gets Lexus' Safety System+ 2.5 which includes adaptive cruise control with forward emergency braking, lane centering and lane departure warning, blind spot monitor and pedestrian detection.

Most will love the old-school power and sounds of the IS 500, but a visit to the filling station could yank them back to the future.

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Lexus IS 500 F Sport Performance

- MSRP: $61,000
- What's all the excitement about? The fast and raucous V-8 engine, of course. It could be the last chance to get a naturally-aspirated V-8 in a premium sport sedan
- Powertrain: 5.0-liter V-8 good for 472 horsepower and 395 pound-feet of torque, mated to 8-speed automatic transmission
- How's the performance? Bigger and heavier than its German foes, it still sprints to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds; adaptive suspension keeps it well balanced and comfortable
- Fuel economy: Just remember, it's about power and speed: 17 mpg city, 25 highway, 20 mpg combined

Turn it off, or let it idle?

MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I was wondering if there's a rule of thumb for shutting off a car while waiting in line at the bank or pharmacy or coffee shop, etc. to conserve gas. If I think I'm going to be idling more than a minute, like at the bank, I shut the car off. Does this make sense, or should I just let the car idle? Does it take more gas to restart the car?

A: I do the same thing, even on my motorcycle. Of course, there is an added reason on the bike. It gets hot down there. My rule of thumb is: If it seems like a long time, shut it down. It does not take more gas to restart the engines.

Q: I have a 2018 Hyundai Sonata. I deliver meals on wheels two days a week. Is it better for gas mileage, when making short stops, to let the car run or turn it off and then restart?

A: See the answer above. (And thank you for volunteering.)

Q: I read a comment recently about running lights on cars. In Minnesota, we are required to have our headlights on when it is raining. I notice that many have headlights (running lights?) on, but their taillights are not on. Sometimes, at night, cars have headlights on, but not their taillights. Are the running lights only illuminating the headlamps and not the rear lights? This seems to be a road hazard. It is difficult to see a vehicle from behind at night or in a rainstorm if their lights are not on. Are running lights a feature on most cars?

A: Although daytime running lights (DRLs) are compulsory in some states, there is no federal law. As you have noticed, DRLs do not also turn on the taillights. Most carmakers have linked the headlights with the windshield wipers, so both activate during inclement weather. Although most cars now sport independent DRLs, early vehicles simply illuminated the high beam filament at a lower voltage to glow dimmer.

Q: On vehicles that have a manual transmission and tachometer, is it more effective to target an optimum rpm rather than mph for maximum mpg?

A: Not necessarily. Peak torque on the rpm curve seldom yields peak fuel economy. The highest possible gear plus slower engine speed is the sweet spot.

Q: My 93-year-old father finally gave up driving and gave me his low mileage 2015 Hyundai Genesis. I had two trusted mechanics look at the car and both tell us that the whole charging system is fine including the battery and alternator. They both said you have to start the car and let it run every couple days. I think that's ridiculous. I have cars that sit for weeks and start right up. I think there has to be a draw somewhere.

A: There may be a parasitic electrical draw, as you suspected. Although some current is always flowing to keep the car's control systems alive, anything over 500 milliamps (one-half amp) is too much. This is easily tested using an ammeter connected between the negative battery terminal and the cable once it is removed. There an interval step to keep the car's system alive while the battery cable is disconnected using a jumper wire. This step can be avoided using an amp clamp. Talk it over with your mechanic. By the way, letting the car idle does not charge the battery very well.

Life & Style

Protest held at Uffizi's 'Spring' but painting not damaged

ROME (AP)—Italian environmental activists glued their hands Friday to the glass protecting Sandro Botticelli's painting "Spring" in the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, police said. The museum said thanks to the glass, which was installed as a precaution several years ago, the masterpiece was unharmed.

Paired with the Florentine artist's other masterpiece, "Birth of Venus," the two iconic canvases, dating from the late 15th century, are among the museum's most popular artworks. The painting is large, standing 10 feet, 6 inches by 6 feet, 9 inches (319 cm by 207 cm).

Carabinieri police said two young women and a man, all Italians who had bought entrance tickets, staged the protest in the Uffizi's room dedicated to the painter. The activists sat on the floor and displayed a banner reading, "Last Generation No Gas No Coal," police said.

AP

Two activists of Ultima Generazione (Last Generation) environmentalist group claim to glue themselves to the glass protecting Italian Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli's Primavera (Spring) in Florence's Uffizi Galleries, central Italy, Friday, July 22, 2022.

The glue was safely removed from the glass.

The Corriere della Sera newspaper quoted the activists as saying in a statement: "Today, is it possible to see a beautiful Spring like this?"

The three were taken to a police station in Florence. Italian media said the activists were issued official orders to stay out of the tourist-popular city for three years, using a strategy in Italy similar to that often applied to violent soccer fans.

Jordan Peele's 'Nope' debuts at No. 1 with $44 million

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Jordan Peele 's UFO thriller "Nope" topped the North American charts in its first weekend in theaters with an estimated $44 million in ticket sales, Universal Pictures said Sunday. Though it doesn't come close to the $71 million debut of "Us," it is still significantly impressive for an original, R-rated film—and the biggest of the pandemic for an original screenplay.

"Nope," which opened on 3,785 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, is the most expensive film Peele has made to date with a reported $68 million production budget, not accounting for marketing and promotion costs. "Us" cost around $20 million to produce, while "Get Out" was made for only $4.5 million. Both films ultimately made over $255 million worldwide.

Critics were largely positive about " Nope," which stars Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer and Steven Yeun and pays homage to UFO films like "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Signs," and is currently resting at 83% on Rotten Tomatoes.

"It's a great number," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "It's amazing how broadly it's playing too."

"Jordan Peele crafted an incredible film," Orr added. "And it is absolutely something that should be seen on the big screen."

The film got off to a strong start with $6.4 million from Thursday previews. By the end of Friday, it had grossed $19.3 million. About 68% of the opening weekend audience was between the ages of 18 and 34, which is the "sweet spot" for a horror film. Audiences were also quite diverse according to exit polls, reporting 35% Caucasian, 33% Black, 20% Hispanic and 8% Asian.

And many chose to experience "Nope" in IMAX, which accounted for about $5.2 million of its first weekend earnings.

"It's incredibly gratifying to see a visionary like Jordan Peele, who represents a new generation of filmmakers, use our technology in pioneering ways and create an experience meant to be seen in IMAX," said IMAX CEO Rich Gelfond.

Word of mouth is going to be critical in the coming weeks for "Nope," which begins its international rollout on Aug. 12.

"An opening weekend for a Jordan Peele film is not the right metric. We have to see where it is a month from now," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "'Nope' could have solid, long-term playability as the word gets out. One need only look at 'Elvis' to see that a film doesn't have to open huge to be a big success."

"Nope" knocked "Thor: Love and Thunder" to second place in its third weekend. The Disney and Marvel blockbuster starring Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman added $22.1 million, bringing its global total to $598.2 million.

Universal's "Minions: The Rise of Gru" landed in third place with $17.7 million in its fourth weekend. The animated pic has made $640.3 million globally.

The Sony-released adaptation of the bestseller "Where the Crawdads Sing," meanwhile, is enjoying a modest second weekend drop. The film starring Daisy Edgar-Jones added an estimated $10.3 million from 3,650 locations. It's now grossed $38.3 million domestically.

Paramount's "Top Gun: Maverick" rounded out the top five in its ninth weekend with an additional $10 million. Earlier this week it surpassed "The Avengers" to become ninth biggest domestic release of all time with its total now sitting at $635.6 million.

In limited release, "Marcel the Shell with Shoes On" continued its expansion and made $846,950 from 590 theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Nope," $44 million.
2. "Thor: Love and Thunder," 22.1 million.
3. "Minions: The Rise of Gru," $17.7 million.
4. "Where the Crawdads Sing," $10.3 million.
5. "Top Gun: Maverick," $10 million.
6. "Elvis," $6.3 million.
7. "Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank," $3.9 million.
8. "The Black Phone," $3.5 million.
9. "Jurassic World Dominion," $3 million.
10. "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris," $1.4 million.

Twin sister decides she rules the roost

DEAR ABBY: When my husband died two months ago, my identical twin helped me move in with her. She never married. I do all the chores— clean six litter boxes, load and unload the dishwasher, etc. I don't know how to operate her washer/dryer, as she has shown me only once. She doesn't like the way I use my phone, set up files, nothing. She also drinks a lot, uses marijuana and is on a starvation diet. If I eat any carbohydrates at dinner, she accuses me of being a "glutton."

At first, she was happy I was here, because on a previous visit she said I was her drinking buddy. I don't usually care much about eating, since my sense of taste is poor. Last night, because I could taste the dinner, I ate more. She accused me of being a glutton and a parasite. She has, as far back as I can remember, always been "MY way or the highway."

I'm tempted to go live in my truck to avoid her constant sniping. I have no money, YET. She loaned me $4,500, and feels that any money I receive from now on must go directly to her. Please help me.

UNHAPPY TWIN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR UNHAPPY: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. While moving in with your sister may have seemed like a good idea while you were in shock and the initial stages of grieving, unless you want to be her maid for the rest of your days, make other living arrangements. You are being treated like Cinderella.

Repay the loan in installments after you find a job or the estate is settled. Your sister may have always been the dominant twin, but what you are experiencing now is abuse, and for the sake of your mental health, you cannot allow it to continue.

■■■■

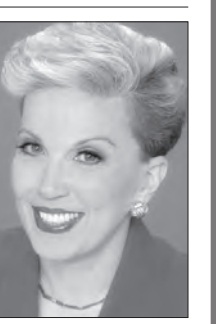
DEAR ABBY: I had a man as a roommate for a year while he worked in town. "Rodney" was a wonderful roommate. After his lease ran out and he was transferred elsewhere, he came clean about his feelings for me. Then the pandemic happened, and he disappeared for two years.

Rodney is now back and wants to live with me part time again. This time he wants more intimacy. He's kind and helpful around the house. He's divorced, very smooth and has a residence 1,000 miles from here. I don't want to be "friends with benefits." I don't know him well enough to know if I want more. But I enjoy his company a lot. I am in my 60s and young-looking — so why not just have a good time? I still don't want to be hurt. Any advice?

ROOMMATE ROMANCE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ROOMMATE: Sex with you should not be part of Rodney's lease agreement. What he is proposing seems more like a business deal than an attempt to court you. If you are looking for a relationship that could lead to "something more," do not jump into this without carefully weighing the pros and cons, including the emotional risk involved. If you were willing to settle for a "good time," you wouldn't be writing to me.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

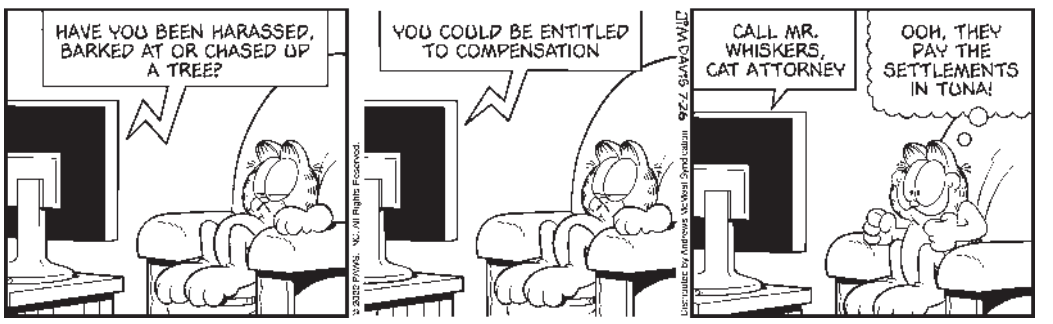
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I HAVE A QUESTION, DAD
SURE.
WHICH EXACTLY ARE THE HALCYON DAYS OF MY YOUTH? IS SATURDAY ONE?
I BELIEVE THEY'RE AWARDED RETROACTIVELY WHEN YOU'RE GROWN UP.
YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY THEM UNTIL THEN?
HALCYONITY IS RELATIVE
I'LL GO ASK MOM.

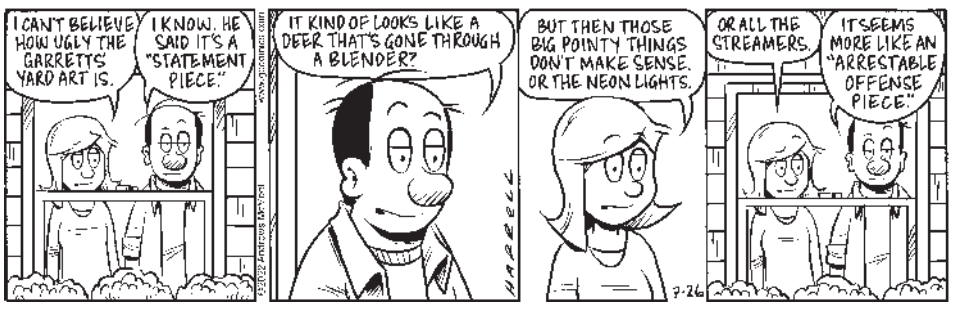
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HAVE YOU BEEN HARASSED, BARKED AT OR CHASED UP A TREE?
YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION
CALL MR. WHISKERS, CAT ATTORNEY
OOH, THEY PAY THE SETTLEMENTS IN TUNA!

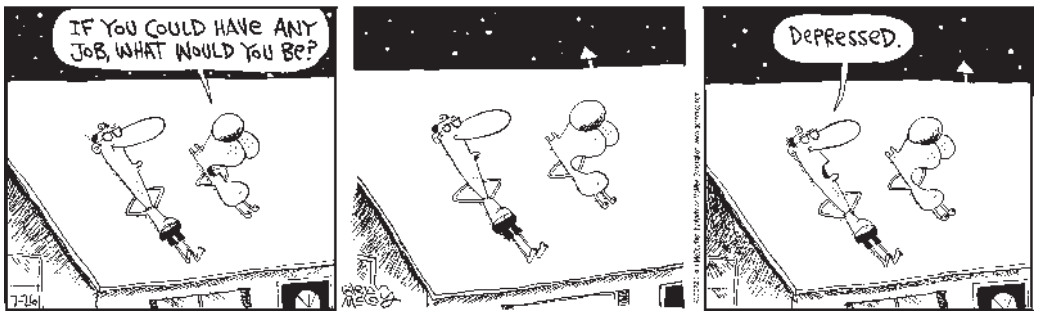
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW UGLY THE GARRETTS' YARD ART IS.
I KNOW. HE SAID IT'S A "STATEMENT PIECE."
IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE A DEER THAT'S GONE THROUGH A BLENDER?
BUT THEN THOSE BIG POINTY THINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE. OR THE NEON LIGHTS.
OR ALL THE STREAMERS.
IT SEEMS MORE LIKE AN "ARRESTABLE OFFENSE PIECE."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pop singer Céline
5 "It's c-c-cold!"
8 Cicatrix
12 Vicinity
13 Fib
14 Sharpen
15 Huge kudos
17 Assess
18 Blue
19 Shadowed
21 Pretended
24 Decorate
25 Rapscallions
26 Campus cafeteria offering
30 Carnival city
31 Long skirts
32 Oklahoma tribe
33 '80s arcade game
35 Castle defense
36 Eyeglass frames
37 Smooths, as wood
38 Source of gum arabic
41 Numerical prefix
42 Composer Bartok
43 Performance bonus
48 Japanese noodle
49 "Rocks"
50 Rights org.
51 Head, to Henri
52 Fine, at NASA
53 Detail

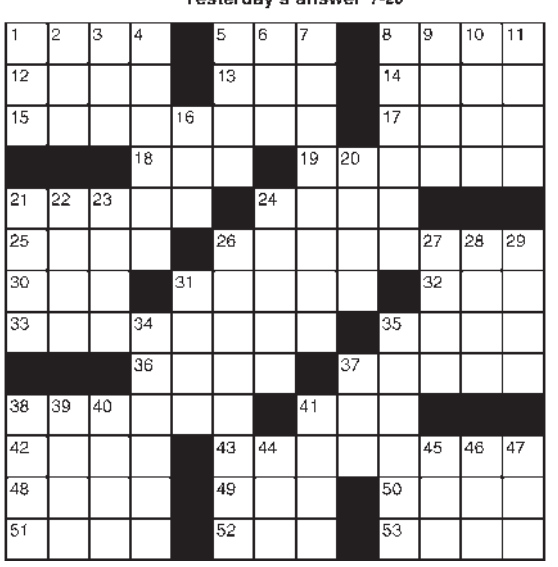
DOWN

1 River blocker
2 A Gershwin brother
3 British ref. work
4 Italian port
5 Huff and puff
6 Wardrobe malfunction
7 Check
8 Tempura choice
9 Furnace fuel
10 Pay to play
11 Clarinet insert
16 Scepter
20 Feels unwell
21 Mattress option
22 Writer Kingsley
23 Music genre for BTS
24 Plano's state
26 Abba-inspired musical
27 Lake bird
28 Slightly
29 Forget-me- — (flowers)
31 1102, to Nero
34 Esoteric
35 Rum cocktail
37 Hindu honorific
38 Border on
39 Give up
40 Oodles
41 Arduous journey
44 Author Umberto
45 Agt.'s cut
46 Hearty brew
47 "Tasty!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

R	A	P		I	A	I	I	A		C	B	S
E	V	E		O	I	L	E	R		R	I	O
F	A	C	E	C	R	E	A	M		E	N	D
			D	U	B		C	I	C	A	D	A
C	I	S	U	S	E		H	E	M			
O	H	O		T	D	S		S	E	F	T	A
R	C	U	T		S	A	D		F	L	E	L
A	P	R	O	N		T	I	L		F	L	O
		C	R	A	T		C	O	F	F	E	E
P	H	R	A	S	E		T	O	O			
R	J	E		C	R	E	A	M	P	I	E	S
A	L	A		A	R	E	T	E		S	L	O
Y	A	M		R	A	K	E	D		P	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bianca Santos, 32; Kate Beckinsale, 49; Sandra Bullock, 58; Helen Mirren, 77.

Happy Birthday: You'll encounter plenty of opportunities that require you to ignore emotions, favor practicality and allow you to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Change based on your needs will keep you on the path to success. Look at a challenge as a plus, and engage in competitive action that encourages you to be and do your best. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 25, 27, 34, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Refuse to let an overrated opinion lead you astray. Dissect information and use intelligence to find an efficient way to get what you want. Avoid situations that tamper with your health and emotional well-being. Set ground rules and stick to them. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Uncertainty will set in if you listen to someone negative. Look for the silver lining, and you will find a way to combat any disruption that comes your way. Put your energy where it will bring the highest return. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Focus on what's essential and instrumental in reaching what you set out to do. Do the research yourself instead of trusting others to offer an honest opinion. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend time with someone who motivates you to do better. Listen to advice and consider how to utilize any offers you receive to improve your life. Stop waiting for things to happen; take the initiative and do whatever is required to fulfill your dreams. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Test the water before you decide to get wet. Know what you are up against, and use the tools and skills you master to combat anything negative. Strength comes from knowing your limitations and freedoms. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Branch out, try something new and exciting, and get involved and make a difference. How you help others will encourage you to pay closer attention to those closest to you. Affirmative action will improve your reputation and attitude. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think before you do something you'll regret. Don't take out your frustration on others. Observe what's going on and wait to see the results. Time is on your side, so let things unfold naturally. You'll avoid fallout with someone close. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Personal changes will lift your spirits and build confidence. A shift in your living arrangements will help rectify a problem you face. An innovative approach to life, love and happiness will pay off. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* The changes unfolding around you are not solid. Take a pass if you feel the least bit uncomfortable with arrangements others make. Discipline will help counter disagreeable behavior. Set high standards and stick to your plan. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll gravitate toward someone who shares your feelings. Be a good listener because the information you receive will give you a better understanding of a situation you face with someone you love. Simplify your life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Review your options. Don't let anger force you to make a premature move. Discipline is required if you want to finish what you start and reap the rewards you deserve. Know what you want and put your plan in place. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Explore new possibilities and connect with people who share your concerns. Put your heart and soul into making a difference for those less fortunate. Keep your expenditures low, but offer physical help and mental and emotional support instead. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, spontaneous and big-hearted. You are protective and original.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8		9			
		9	3			1		
3	1	4					6	
4	3		7			6		
	5						1	
		2			3		7	9
	7					4	9	5
		8			6	7		
			4		1			

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	2	1	8	6	7	9	5	3
3	9	6	2	1	5	8	7	4
7	5	8	4	3	9	1	2	6
1	7	2	9	4	6	3	8	5
9	4	5	3	8	2	7	6	1
6	8	3	5	7	1	2	4	9
8	1	9	7	5	4	6	3	2
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	9	8
2	3	4	6	9	8	5	1	7

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WASHINGTON **Solution: 6 letters**

A	T	S	C	I	N	C	I	P	T	P	L	A	C	E
N	R	S	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	O	N	E	S	N
K	O	M	E	F	B	A	R	N	E	S	N	S	S	O
C	D	I	I	W	C	N	T	H	A	T	A	E	A	R
A	E	C	T	T	H	R	B	A	E	S	T	N	T	D
J	A	D	E	C	A	T	U	R	J	H	U	T	E	L
P	D	Y	V	U	U	G	R	B	O	A	R	I	L	A
I	M	A	T	I	A	R	E	O	H	W	E	N	L	W
K	A	S	N	N	C	C	T	R	N	G	N	E	I	G
S	N	S	S	I	U	T	A	S	S	T	U	L	T	Ⓡ
E	T	S	O	R	F	O	I	N	B	A	L	S	Ⓔ	E
M	R	E	T	A	W	F	C	M	O	O	C	Ⓔ	S	B
A	C	R	A	N	E	A	U	L	W	E	Ⓕ	R	O	E
J	D	O	P	A	E	P	S	P	E	A	R	L	O	C
P	O	I	N	T	E	R	I	P	P	L	E	E	G	I

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Armitage, Barnes, Brown, Canoe, Center, County, Crane, Deadman, Decatur, Frost, Goose, Guss, Harbor, Iceberg, James, Johns, Jones, Justice, Matia, Nature, Northwest, Obstruction, Orcas, Pacific, Patos, Peapod, Pearl, Picnics, Place, Pointer, Puffin, Reef, Ripple, Satellite, Sentinel, Shaw, Skipjack, Stuart, Turn, Victim, Waldron, Wasp, Water, Willow

Yesterday's Answer: Solar System

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 69,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Judge hits 37th homer, Cortes pitches Yanks past Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 37th home run, fellow All-Star Nestor Cortes pitched six sharp innings and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-0 on Sunday.

Jose Trevino, another Yankees All-Star, produced the first four-hit game of his career. New York, with the best record in the big leagues, took two of three and have now won 22 of its 32 completed series this year.

Judge has seven home runs in his last nine games and leads the majors with 81 RBIs.

Cortes (8-3) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked none. Clarke Schmidt pitched three innings and earned his first career save.

New York scored three times in the third on a double by DJ LeMahieu and a two-run drive by Judge off Dean Kremer (3-2).

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge breaks his bat on a single during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, July 24, 2022, in Baltimore.

Astros 8, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña hit back-to-back home runs off Robbie Ray to begin the game, and Houston roughed up the reigning AL Cy Young Award to complete a three-game sweep of Seattle.

Martín Maldonado had three RBIs from the No. 9 spot in the lineup and All-Star lefty Framber Valdez (9-4) took a shutout into the seventh inning for the Astros, who won their fifth straight and increased their AL West lead to 13 games over second-place Seattle.

The Mariners had won 14 in a row before Houston arrived, but were stopped cold by the defending AL champions coming out of the All-Star break.

Ray (8-7) was tagged for six runs and 10 hits in three innings. Altuve sent the first pitch of the game into the left-field bleachers, Peña followed with his 14th homer and the Astros were off and running.

Dodgers 7, Giants 4

In Los Angeles, Trayce Thompson drove in two runs and thrilled his older brother, Klay, with an RBI double during the decisive rally in the seventh inning while Los Angeles surged past San Francisco for its season-high eighth consecutive victory.

Unlikely cleanup hitter Jake Lamb delivered a tiebreaking double during that three-run rally by the NL-leading Dodgers, who have 15 victories in 16 games overall. Los Angeles swept a four-game series with the Giants at Chavez Ravine for the first time since 1995 and only the third time in the archrivals' long history.

Gavin Lux also drove in two runs as Los Angeles' offense overcame a mediocre start by Clayton Kershaw to earn the club's 11th consecutive victory at Dodger Stadium. After Lux's RBI single drove in Lamb in the seventh, Trayce Thompson's drive to right-center scored Max Muncy and pumped up Klay

Thompson, the Golden State Warriors star, in his seat right behind the Giants' dugout.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Raimel Tapia had three hits and drove in four runs, giving him 10 RBIs for the series, and Vladimir Guerrero had four hits as Toronto beat bumbling Boston for a three-game sweep.

Two days after Tapia had an inside-the-park grand slam in a record-setting 28-5 victory, he had a bases-loaded triple to spot Toronto to a 5-0 lead off top Boston prospect Brayan Bello (0-2).

The Blue Jays also took advantage of three errors and a series of other blunders by Boston, which is just a half-game out of last place in the AL East.

On the day David Ortiz was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame about a four-hour drive to the west, the Red Sox lost their fifth straight game.

Mets 8, Padres 5

In New York, Pete Alonso hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Joe Musgrove and had four RBIs to retake the major league lead, leading New York Mets past San Diego.

Alonso hit his 25th home run in a five-run sixth and added a RBI double high off the center-field wall in a three-run seventh that built an 8-1 lead. With 82 RBIs, he moved one ahead of the Yankees' Aaron Judge heading into the first Subway Series game of the season at Citi Field on Tuesday night.

Eric Hosmer provided Musgrove (8-3) a 1-0 lead with an RBI double in the sixth off Drew Smith (2-3), but the Mets rallied in the bottom half on the sweltering night and reopened a 1 1/2-game NL East lead over second-place Atlanta. New York avoided a three-game sweep and what would have been its first four-game losing streak this year.

Manny Machado had three hits, included an RBI double in a three-run ninth off Joely Rodríguez for the Padres. Edwin Díaz, energizing the crowd when he entered to Blasterjaxx & Timmy Trumpet's "Narco," relieved with two on and got three outs for his 21st save in 24 chances.

Angels 9, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Taylor Ward homered in a five-run first, Reid Detmers pitched five scoreless innings and Los Angeles cooled off Atlanta.

Max Stassi went 3 for 4 and drove in three runs, and Ward had three hits for the Angels, who improved to 3-14 this month and snapped a five-game skid. They had dropped 14 of 16 and were a season-worst 16 games under .500.

The defending World Series champion Braves had won 14 of 19 and were 35-11 since June 1, the best record in the majors during that span.

Atlanta fell 1 1/2 games behind the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

Reds 6, Cardinals 3

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a three-run homer to back Tyler Mahle's sharp return from injury as Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

The last-place Reds overcame Paul Goldschmidt's two opposite-field homers to take two of three in the series. They've won eight of their last 12 games.

The only hits allowed by Mahle in six innings were Goldschmidt's two home runs, giving him four in the series and 24 this season. The slugger launched a two-run drive in the fourth and a solo shot in the sixth.

Goldschmidt also homered in the All-Star Game on Tuesday at Dodger Stadium — but he won't be available for St. Louis' next game.

Before their finale in Cincinnati, the Cardinals announced that Goldschmidt and star third baseman Nolan Arenado — two of their best players — won't make the trip to Toronto for a short series with the Blue Jays because they haven't received the COVID-19 vaccination. Canada has restrictions on travelers who aren't vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Twins 9, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Sonny Gray allowed two hits in six innings to lead Minnesota over Detroit.

Gray (5-3) is 2-0 against the Tigers this season, permitting one run and six hits in 13 innings.

Jose Miranda had three hits and scored twice for the Twins, who are 2-0 since the All-Star break.

Rony Garcia (3-3) allowed three runs on three hits and three hit batters in 2 2/3 innings before leaving with shoulder soreness.

Gary Sanchez had a late two-run double for Minnesota.

Cubs 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Yan Gomes hit two home runs, Drew Smyly tossed six sharp innings and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Nelson Velázquez also went deep for the Cubs, who have won four in a row. It was Chicago's first three-game sweep in Philadelphia since July 2000.

Garrett Stubbs homered for the Phillies, who failed to gain ground in the NL wild-card race against the lowly Cubs. Only the Reds, Athletics and Nationals entered the day with fewer wins than Chicago.

Smyly (3-5) retired his first 14 batters. He allowed one earned run on four hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

Marlins 6, Pirates 5, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Nick Fortes and Miguel Rojas hit RBI singles in the 10th inning and the Miami Marlins topped Pittsburgh.

Fortes led off the 10th with a go-ahead single against closer David Bednar (3-4).

Jeff Brigham gave up a two-out, RBI single to Cal Mitchell in the bottom half before getting his second save in the majors and first since 2019.

Miami ace Sandy Alcantara struck out 10 in six innings, allowing two runs and two hits and leaving with a 1.81 ERA.

White Sox 6, Guardians 3

In Chicago, Dylan Cease threw six innings in his third straight scoreless start, Leury Garcia and AJ Pollock homered, and Chicago beat Cleveland to salvage a four-game split.

Eloy Jiménez went deep in his second straight game, helping the White Sox end a series that was shaping up as a bad one for them on a stronger note.

The reigning AL Central champions won the second game of Saturday's doubleheader after blowing a 3-0 lead. They jumped on Shane Bieber (4-6) in this one and finished a stretch of 19 straight games against division opponents at 10-9.

Chicago scored five in the second on Garcia's two-run homer and Pollock's three-run drive. Jiménez made it 6-0 when he connected leading off the sixth.

Royals 4, Rays 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Kris Bubic went seven strong innings, Hunter Dozier and MJ Melendez had late-inning RBIs and Kansas City won a series against Tampa Bay for the first time in five years.

Dozier snapped a 2-all tie with two outs in the seventh when he singled off Brooks Raley (1-1) to score Whit Merrifield. Melendez added an insurance run with a double in the eighth.

The Royals overcame the loss of Bobby Witt Jr. for their first series win against the Rays since 2017. They broke an 11-series losing streak to AL East teams.

Rangers 11, Athletics 8

In Oakland, Calif., Martín Pérez allowed four hits over seven strong innings to extend his undefeated streak and beat fellow All-Star Paul Blackburn, leading Texas over Oakland.

Pérez (8-2) had six strikeouts and won his career-best eighth straight decision. The first-time All-Star is unbeaten in his last 17 starts, passing Kyle Gibson for the Rangers' single-season franchise record.

Corey Seager hit his 23rd home run. Adolis García also connected and had a career-high four hits and three RBIs as the Rangers won for the second time in eight games. Jonah Heim matched a team record with three doubles on a day when eight Texas players had at least one hit and one RBI.

Brewrs 10, Rockies 9

In Milwaukee, Andrew McCutchen's tiebreaking, two-run double capped a two-out rally in the eighth inning that lifted Milwaukee over Colorado.

Alex Colomé (2-3) came in to protect an 8-7 lead for the Rockies and retired the first two batters he faced before the Brewers broke loose. Rowdy Tellez hit a tying single that set the stage for McCutchen.

Colorado, which had erased deficits of 3-0 and 5-2 earlier in the day, nearly came all the way back again. Brewers closer Josh Hader held on for his 28th save in 30 opportunities.

Nationals 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Keibert Ruiz had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and Washington avoided a three-game sweep by beating Arizona.

The Nationals were sloppy in the field with three errors and a couple other questionable decisions. But they stayed close and tied the game 3-all on Josh Bell's RBI double in the seventh.

Pinch-hitter Lane Thomas led off the eighth with a double against All-Star reliever Joe Mantiply (1-3), and Ruiz brought him home for a 4-3 advantage.

Washington's bullpen escaped a bases-loaded, no-outs jam in the eighth. Steve Cishek got Ketel Marte to pop out and then Kyle Finnegan coaxed a double-play grounder from Christian Walker to end the inning.

Former Laker Medvedenko auctions NBA title rings for Ukraine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Los Angeles Lakers player Slava Medvedenko is selling his two NBA championship rings to raise money for his native Ukraine.

Medvedenko was a power forward on the Lakers' championship teams in 2001 and '02, playing alongside Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal.

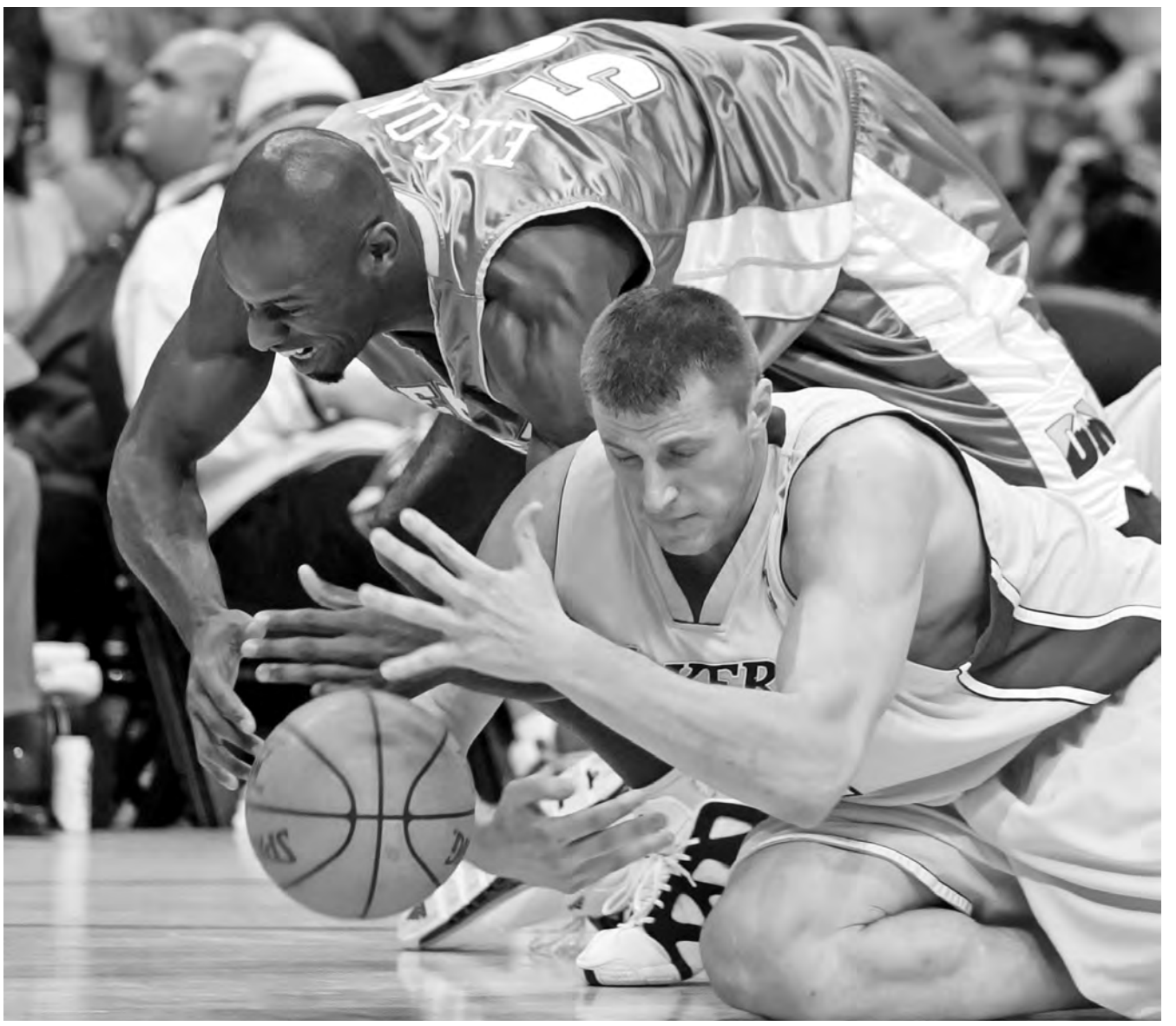
SCP Auctions is donating the entire final sale price of both rings to Medvedenko's Fly High Foundation. Its goal is to support Ukrainian children by restoring the sports infrastructure of the war-torn country's schools and launching a network of social sports clubs.

"We want to restore gyms because the Russian army bombed more than a hundred schools," he told The Associated Press by phone on Sunday. "Our country, they need a lot of money to fix the schools. Sports gyms are going to be last in the line to fix it. In Ukraine, we have winter and kids need to play inside."

The auction runs from Wednesday through Aug. 5. The Laguna Niguel, California-based company estimates both rings will raise at least $100,000.

Medvedenko said he decided to sell the rings after going to the roof of one of the tallest buildings in his Kyiv neighborhood and watching rockets launched by Russian forces streak through the night sky.

"In this moment I just decided, 'Why do I need these rings if they're just sitting in my safe?'" Medvedenko said. "I just recognize I can die. After that, I just say I have to sell them to show people leadership, to help my Ukrainian people to live better, to help kids."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Slava Medvedenko, right, of Ukraine, and Denver Nuggets' Francisco Elson, top, of the Netherlands, dive for the ball in the first quarter of a preseason NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Oct. 20, 2005.

Medvedenko spoke from Warsaw, Poland, where he staged a sold out charity basketball game to raise money for Ukrainian refugees who crossed the border to escape the war.

"In Ukraine, you're just feeling it's war, rockets, air alerts. You're so used to that kind of pressure," he said. "As soon as you cross the border and see how people live normal life, it's a different world."

The 43-year-old is married with two daughters, ages 16 and 11, and a 10-year-old son. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February, Medvedenko sent his children to live with their grandmother in another part of the country.

"After they stay for 1 1/2 months, they were all the time calling me and asking, 'Papa, can we come home? We want to be with you and Momma,'" he recalled.

Five months into the war, Medvedenko has reunited his family in Kyiv.

"We have air alerts almost every day. Sometimes it's three or four times a day," he said. "The kids are so used to it. They play in our backyard. They not even stop playing they are used to it."

Medvedenko has served in Ukraine's territorial defense forces during the war.

"We were defending our neighborhood, doing checkpoints and duty patrol. I'm not the best solider, I'm not the best shooter, but I can give them support," he said, adding that he carried an AK-47. "I shoot it a couple times, not at people. I'm happy I don't have a chance to shoot somebody. Our army did a great job to defend Kyiv. I want to thank them."

Medvedenko was a candidate for Kyiv City Council in the 2020 election. He was 11th on the election list and his party only managed to win nine seats.

Beyond his humanitarian efforts during the war, Medvedenko has long-term goals to help his country.

"After the victory, we will definitely return to that question of quality changes in sport," he said. "Ten years in the United States, I saw how it works. I hope I have ideal model in my mind to change Ukrainian sport."

Medvedenko joined the Lakers in the 2000-01 season. He had his best season in 2003-04 when he started 38 games in place of injured Hall of Famer Karl Malone, and averaged 8.3 points and 5.0 rebounds. Injuries later slowed him and Medvedenko was traded to the Atlanta Hawks in 2006-07, his final season in the league.

Medvedenko said he texts with former Lakers Mark Madsen and Luke Walton. The team has sent sports equipment for use in Ukraine.

"The Lakers family always help me," he said. "The Lakers are always in my heart."

Philadelphia 76ers look to build new $1.3-billion arena

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday announced plans to take the first steps toward building a privately funded $1.3 billion sports and entertainment arena.

The team's managing partners, Josh Harris and David Blitzer, unveiled the creation of a new development company led by business leader David Adelman to create its future home in the city's Fashion District. They said the new arena, 76 Place, is anticipated to cost approximately $1.3 billion.

The location is a busy downtown area with lots of shopping and entertainment and it is near popular Philadelphia destinations such as the Reading Terminal Market.

"The Philadelphia 76ers are a storied Philadelphia institution with a proven track record of investing in their community. That's why we're committed to building a world-class home in the heart of the city and creating a privately funded arena that strengthens ties within the local community through investments that prioritize equity, inclusivity and accessibility," Harris said in a news release.

The site was selected primarily due to its access to transit, the release said. The team also cited the "ability to redevelop an existing commercial space."

But a coalition of Chinatown community members is organizing opposition to the project, which would be built about one block away from the enclave.

"The proposed development would be yet another in a long history of attempts to diminish Chinatown," said local business owner Xu Lin.

Groundbreaking is not expected for several years and the project is expected to be finished in time for the 2031-2032 NBA season.

The Sixers have called the Wells Fargo Center home since it opened in 1996. "We've had a terrific partnership with the Sixers for decades and look forward to hosting the team in this world-class facility until at least 2031," the arena's owner, Comcast Spectacor said in a statement Thursday.

The venue is also home to the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team, and hosts concerts.

Despite an ongoing $350 million project to renovate the arena inside and out, the Sixers are looking to go their own way.

"We're dedicated to making sure this development is a win for our fans and Philadelphia at large," said Adelman.

NBA BRIEFS

Timberwolves sign guard Austin Rivers for depth

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves finalized a contract Thursday with guard Austin Rivers.

The 6-foot-4 son of Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers spent last season with Denver, where he averaged 6.0 points, 1.7 rebounds and 1.3 assists in 67 games.

Rivers had his best year in the NBA in 2017-18 with the Los Angeles Clippers, averaging 15.1 points, 2.4 rebounds and 4.0 assists in 61 games. He has played 10 seasons in the league for six teams, appearing in 60 playoff games. Rivers was the 10th overall pick in the 2012 draft by New Orleans, coming out of Duke.

After signing Karl-Anthony Towns to a contract extension and making the major trade with Utah to get Rudy Gobert earlier this summer, the Timberwolves also added free agent role players in Kyle Anderson and Bryn Forbes before picking up Rivers.

G League Ignite moving to Vegas suburb of Henderson, Nevada

NEW YORK (AP)—The G League Ignite said Friday that the team has struck a multiyear deal to relocate to Henderson, Nevada.

The Ignite had been training in Walnut Creek, California, since their inception and played home games this past season in Las Vegas, about 15 miles from their new home.

The team exists to develop young prospects in preparation for the NBA Draft. It has featured three eventual top-10 picks — Jalen Green and Jonathan Kuminga last year, Dyson Daniels this year — in its first two seasons.

"With avid sports fans in the Las Vegas area who have quickly embraced their hockey, football and WNBA teams, we can't wait for NBA G League Ignite to showcase its future NBA stars and exciting brand of basketball," G League President Shareef Abdur-Rahim said.

The team's new arena, the Dollar Loan Center, is a 5,500-seat building that opened earlier this year. It also is home to American Hockey League affiliate of the Vegas Golden Knights — the Henderson Silver Knights — and the Indoor Football League's Vegas Knight Hawks.

Michelob Ultra is official sponsor of Beer Mile

Michelob Ultra is the official sponsor of the first ever Beer Mile in the Northern Mariana Islands on Aug. 5, 2022, coinciding with International Beer Day.

Michelob Ultra hit the ground running in 2002 as a beer for health-conscious drinkers, fitness enthusiasts, and athletes. Thanks to a big push from professional athletes like cyclist Lance Armstrong and volleyball player Kerry Walsh, Michelob Ultra is now one of America's top light beers.

A Beer Mile is a 1-mile race invented by Canadian runners in 1989. It combines the physical challenge of interval training with the skill of speed drinking. The beer mile required runners to consume a 12-oz. beer before each quarter mile lap, i.e. four beers and four laps.

"We are pleased to partner up with a great organization such as Run Saipan on this one-of-a-kind event," said Marianas Pacific Distributors resident manager Guy Pudney. "It should be a fun-filled day for everyone to come out and Run with Ultra."

Unofficial beer mile races have been held for decades but began gaining global attention in 2014 with the first Beer Mile World Championship in Austin, Texas. The current world record for the beer mile is held by Canadian runner, Corey Bellemore, with an amazing time of 4 minutes and 28 seconds. The female record is an equally impressive 6:16.5, set in 2020 by Allison Grace Morgan of Bend, Oregon.

"As this is the first ever Beer Mile in the CNMI, the fastest male and female will set the standard for future races," commented Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. "Registration ends on Aug. 4 so we encourage everyone interested to sign up now and secure your place."

Registration for the NMI Michelob Ultra Beer Mile is now open via RaceRoster. The $20 registration fee includes the four beers necessary to complete the course, special race bibs, and a high-quality finisher medal for the first 100 runners to cross the finish line. Net proceeds will support Run Saipan, a non-profit running community dedicated to hosting running events in the CNMI. "Our mission is to promote cardiovascular health through running," said Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Ron Snyder. "Anything we can do to motivate people to get moving is a win for us in achieving our mission and the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile should help us prove to everyone that running is fun."

In addition to the finisher medals, the top male and female finishers (by time) will receive a Michelob Ultra Prize Pack. The Michelob Ultra Beer Mile will kick off at 5:30pm on Aug. 5, 2022 at the Saipan Vegas Country Club on Middle Road.

Whether you are at the Beer Mile, with family and friends or out on the town, please drink responsibly and arrange a designated driver. Have fun and stay safe CNMI!

Additional information, rules, and registration details are available at https://raceroster.com/events/2022/59666/the-run-saipan-beer-mile and www.beermile.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, MarPac Sales and Marketing manager James Lee, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder, and MarPac resident manager Guy Pudney.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan's first ever Beer Mile medal and a can of Michelob Ultra.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	31	.680	_
Toronto	53	43	.552	12½
Tampa Bay	52	43	.547	13
Boston	48	48	.500	17½
Baltimore	47	48	.495	18

Central Division

Minnesota	52	44	.542	_
Cleveland	48	46	.511	3
Chicago	48	48	.500	4
Kansas City	38	57	.400	13½
Detroit	38	58	.396	14

West Division

Houston	64	32	.667	_
Seattle	51	45	.531	13
Texas	43	51	.457	20
Los Angeles	40	55	.421	23½
Oakland	35	63	.357	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	59	37	.615	_
Atlanta	58	39	.598	1½
Philadelphia	49	46	.516	9½
Miami	45	50	.474	13½
Washington	32	65	.330	27½

Central Division

Milwaukee	53	43	.552	_
St. Louis	51	46	.526	2½
Pittsburgh	40	56	.417	13
Chicago	38	57	.400	14½
Cincinnati	36	58	.383	16

West Division

Los Angeles	64	30	.681	_
San Diego	54	43	.557	11½
San Francisco	48	47	.505	16½
Colorado	43	53	.448	22
Arizona	42	53	.442	22½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MULDOON

From Page 20

nervous about this ride because of the intermittent rain falls that morning and the roads were slick. Having the race end at the top of Suicide Cliff was good for me because I much prefer biking up hill than racing down."

"I want to thank the Lion's Club for hosting such a well-organized and inspiring event. As a healthcare provider, I love to see so many people out moving their bodies and getting their heart rates up on a Sunday morning! Also, it feels good to ride for an important charitable cause. Big shout out to Willy Barbo who used his birthday as a reason to host the race!" said Muldoon.

All Top 3 winners in the women's and men's category of the road bike and MTB races received medals.

The long course started at the former Mariana Resort & Spa before heading north to Banzai Cliff then south to La Fiesta Mall before turning around and headed back all the way to Bird Island Lookout before it went up to Suicide Cliff for the finish line.

The short course ran from Mariana Resort to the "Triangle" and back. The short course in the women's category only had one participant, Marie Sablan, who clocked in at 56:59. In the men's category, Jomar Manalo topped it and clocked in at 42:15, followed by Rico Manungay at 45:48, and Gabriel Manalansan at 46:06.

Over 60 cyclists joined the second Race for a Cause spearheaded by Barbo, who celebrated his birthday by hosting the bike race just like last year. Barbo thanked the volunteers and the participants for this year's event. He said "thanks to the donors and for the pledges and support for the cause. I felt overwhelmed and really felt their eagerness to help."

He said that the money raised will be given to the Saipan Unity Lions Club, of which he is a member of the board of directors and from there, they will determine who to help.

CNMI

From Page 20

2022 North Pacific Regional Championships being played at the Guam National Tennis Center inside the Guam Sports Complex in Dededo. They are duking it out against 16 players from Guam, six players from the Federated States of Micronesia, and five players from Palau.

The rest of the CNMI netters seeing this week in the neighboring U.S. territory are Min Soo Kwon, Seung Woo Choi, Irin Chung, Hannah Chae, Yutaka Kadokura, Jeong Woo Choi, Ian Chae, Hoo Wang, and Lina Tsukagoshi.

They are coached by Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race.

THE BIG

From Page 20

the U.S. mainland, Fitial decided to go back to his roots and once again teamed up with Trench Tech and the venerable Alvarez.

"Only recently I decided to focus on the discipline and art of Brazilian jiu-jitsu with coach Cuki Alvarez. A lot of people don't know that I started with Trench Tech and as I grew older and became a father and husband I wanted to come back and give myself to the art and to coach. I wanted to be promoted here at Trench Tech."

With his newly acquired blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Fitial hopes to prolong his career in mixed martial arts.

"For the past five years I've gotten to understand the science of my body. What you put in it, how to stretch, how to endure. That training helped my natural abilities as a boxer. Wrestling in the U.S., defense and jiu-jitsu here on Saipan, and taking care of my muscles have been my focus in training these past years," he said.

Alvarez, for his part, gave Fitial praise for his renewed dedication to Brazilian jiu-jitsu and him returning to Trench Tech Gym.

"Kelvin joined Trench Tech full time and has been very consistent these past four months training and has really improved a lot on the technical aspect of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, learning and refining his skills on the mat."

The veteran mixed martial arts fighter dubbed "The Cockroach," agreed that Fitial focusing on improving his Brazilian jiu-jitsu skills will only bode well for his MMA career.

"As you know, Kelvin is known for his stand-up game and knocking people out in the octagon and has been representing the CNMI the past 18 years in the MMA arena. He has fought in Guam, where he became the Pacific Xtreme Combat heavyweight champion in 2011, Philippines, Korea, Japan, and other places in the Asian region."

He said during that time Fitial joined almost all of Trench Tech's grappling jiu-jitsu tournaments held locally called The Art of War Submission Grappling Challenge and has won gold, silver, and bronze.

"So his ground game is kind of underrated, but has really improved the last four months. After seeing him improve and apply the techniques he has acquired on the mat during sparring, I knew it was time to promote him to blue belt. He moves a lot more efficiently on the ground and is improving daily on his journey to becoming a well-rounded martial artist," said Alvarez.

Judge hits 37th homer, Cortes pitches Yanks past Orioles

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Michelob Ultra is official sponsor of Beer Mile

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CNMI netters start NPRC campaign

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A total of 19 junior netters are currently in Guam to play in the 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships that has been postponed the past couple of years due to COVID-19.

Early results show six CNMI netters barging into the win column of their respective age groups.

Winning Commonwealth players are led by Wimbledon veteran La Hunn Lam after the 14-year-old blanked Aki Matsuno, 6-0 6-0, in the boys 14 and under singles.

Also victorious in the age group is Si Woo Lee after he beat compatriot Nason Wessel, 7-6 (6) 4-6 10-5, in a protracted match in the boys 14 and under.

Serin Chung also emerged victorious in a CNMI-CNMI affair after she topped schoolmate Savita Sikkel, 6-2 6-2, in the girls 16 and under.

Anna Kwon also was a straight sets winner against Alani Panuelo, 6-0, 6-0, in the same age group.

In the boys 14 and under, Seung Woo "Henry" Choi showed no love lost to June Yu, 6-7 (2) 6-4 10-8, in yet another epic battle between CNMI netters.

The CNMI's Jihun Park also beat Jeren Devera, 6-4 6-4, in the same division.

The CNMI's Cody Shimizu, meanwhile, lost his debut after falling to Anthony Gregoire, 2-6, 1-6, in the boys 16 and under.

Ton Perez also got the better of the CNMI's Simon Tang, 6-4 6-1, in the boys 16 and under.

A total of 19 junior netters from the Northern Marianas are seeing action in the

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CONTRUBUTED PHOTO
La Hunn Lam, seen here with Michael Zheng of the U.S. in Wimbledon earlier this month, led six CNMI netters with wins in Day 1 of the 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships at the Guam National Tennis Center inside the Guam Sports Complex in Dededo.

Muldoon, Gaviola top Race for a Cause

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Lily Muldoon and Ren Ren Gaviola were the overall top finishers in the road bike and MTB divisions of the Race for a Cause sponsored by veteran rider Willy Barbo held last Sunday in Marpi.

Gaviola crossed the finish line with the time of 1:02:04. He was followed by Mark Isip who came in mere milliseconds after him at 1:02:34. Fred Remillosa completed the Top 3 at 1:02:46.

Muldoon, the 37-year-old Department of Public Health director and Commonwealth Health Center Emergency Department physician, clocked in as the fastest woman in the long bike course at 1:08:13. Coming second is Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 bronze medalist Heather Brook, clocking in at 1:12:07, and third was Jay Anne Felipe at 1:12:30.

Muldoon told *Saipan Tribune* that it was "another great bike race! I particularly love when they host because there is an electric energy by the organizers, even at 5:30am, and they have the best snacks at the end, including *lugaw* with boiled egg."

She added that she, "was

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LEIGH GASES
Women's category winners, from left, first place Dr. Lily Muldoon, third place Jay Anne Felipe, and second place Heather Brooks. Men's overall winner Ren Ren Gaviola, second from right, second place is Mark Isip, right, and third place Fred Remollosa, third from right, are also in the photo.

'The Big Hit' is now a blue belt

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mixed martial arts fighter Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial recently earned his blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu at Trench Tech Gym.

The 38-year-old said it's about time to supplement his stand-up fighting skills with Brazilian jiu-jitsu and that's why he's been refining his craft with the help of Trench Tech Gym owner and Brazilian jiu-jitsu coach Cuki Alvarez.

"It's been a journey since my first event fight in 2005. I was much younger and eager to stand and punch, and that kept me going for a while. But then I saw that even the big guys I was fighting were starting to try jiu-jitsu moves on me, so I started to learn the basics and have been using as much as I could over my career."

Following a couple of setbacks inside the octagon in

See THE BIG on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, right, is congratulated by Brazilian jiu-jitsu coach Cuki Alvarez during his blue belt promotion ceremony at the Tech Gym.